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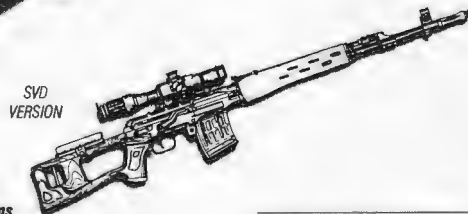
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ALLIES KEY TO DEFEATING ANTI-GUN AXIS by Robert K. Brown

In August of this year, gun owners and the NRA suffered the most grievous defeat in history. The crime bill, more aptly titled the "Hug-A-Thug" bill, passed with moderate Republicans (primarily from the northeast, but that doesn't surprise us now, does it?) pissing away an opportunity to mortally wound Slick Willie's failed presidency.

Now we have not only the nose of the camel under the tent, but also the head, neck and half-a-hump. And if we don't start doing things differently, the whole stinking animal is going to be in the tent and we're going to be out on our asses.

NRA officials have admitted they no longer have the power to stop anti-gun legislation simply by lobbying the dorks inside the Beltway. The mistake they made was to assume that given enough money, their high-priced suede shoe artists could work miracles in Washington. They can't.

Don't get me wrong, Washington lobbyists can be effective, but when facing an increasingly hostile media establishment and a traitorous White House who can schmooze, booze and bamboozle the whores of Congress, no lobbyist is worth a pinch of shit unless he is armed with a helluva block of constituent votes or massive publicity generating power. We have other options, however.

For several years I've been railing about the desirability and necessity of the NRA forming coalitions with other organizations with large constituencies. This would give us a much larger voice, and since congressmen care more about getting votes than right or wrong, much more impact.

The NRA has always prided itself, though frankly I think it's a false pride, on being a one-issue organization. The time for that has changed. While I'm certainly not recommending that the NRA ally itself with hugely controversial groups such as those involved in

the abortion debate, I feel strongly there are other organizations, like those fighting for taxpayers' rights, veterans groups and conservative bodies, that would like the NRA's support on issues vital to them.

And if we can't get the national leadership of organizations like the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the American Legion on board because of their limiting charters from Congress, then we should make a strong effort to work with state and local chapters of these groups to bring them into a coalition which will multiply our strength well beyond the 3 to 5 million the NRA can muster.

It's too late to do this for the 8 November elections, but we have

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**Lawmaster Saga:
FROM IMPROBABLE
CAUSE TO ACCIDENTAL
DISCLOSURE**

James L. Pate

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The People Will Decide

COVER

Croat Special Forces trooper in snow smock during winter operations training south of Zagreb. He is armed with suppressed, folding-stock AK variant. See related story, "Cold Weather Commandos" on page 40. Photo: Krpan Jasmin



BULLETIN BOARD

ARMED AND FREE

Machiavelli wrote 450 years ago: "The Swiss are well armed and enjoy great freedom." The two go hand in hand. The Swiss were known for their armed and free populace 200 years ago when our own Founding Fathers

some of the finest military weapons in the world, including selective fire assault rifles. They export a

citizens from young ladies to old men with assault rifles.

The neutral Swiss stay out of other people's wars — they neither invade other countries, nor do other countries (or armed criminals) tend to invade them. We learned from their example 200 years ago when we framed our own Constitution: Isn't it time we did so again? — *Stephen P. Halbrook, Esq.*



Assault rifles for the Swiss people, not the government. Every one of these Stgw 90 rifles will find a home in the house of a Swiss citizen — by the year 2000 every Swiss male will have one of these at home. Inset: Swiss citizens carry their government-issued assault rifles to the *Feldschiessen*, an annual event where every able-bodied citizen hones their marksmanship skills as part of the greater militia. Photos: Dr. Stephen P. Halbrook, Esq.

adopted the Constitution and penned a special amendment designed to ensure that we, too, would retain our freedoms, secured by a well-regulated militia, e.g., a well-armed populace. The framers of the Constitution wanted to avoid standing armies, entangling foreign alliances, and the perpetual European wars fomented by one tyrant or another. Somewhere along the way America lost sight of this heritage. The Swiss haven't — see the accompanying photos.

The Swiss produce

great many weapons — there is always a market for quality — but their best customer is their own free, armed populace. The current Stgw 90 assault rifle is issued to civilian members of the militia (essentially all able-bodied males plus female volunteers), and these militia members keep the weapons and ammo at home. Needless to say, Switzerland enjoys one of the lowest rates of violent crime in the world: An armed society being a secure — and polite — society. It is not at all unusual to see Swiss

UNARMED, AND NOT FREE

Front page news on our latest copy of *Vietnam News* is the headline "TOY WEAPONS BANNED," regarding an announcement by the Ho Chi Minh City municipal police commissioner that as of 9 June 1994 no toy weapons are allowed in the city. We quote: *The ban covers toys made of any materials — steel, plastics, cardboard, wood, bamboo — having the appearance of a weapon (firearms, crossbows, bows, swords, daggers, machetes, etc...)*

Their import, production, sale, and use are strictly forbidden. Those with such toys in their possession should no longer use, but instead destroy them as soon as possible.

The city police department shall combine their effort with relevant departments to control and prevent the import, production and circulation of these dangerous toys. All viola-

tions shall be punished severely according to their gravity. — Vietnamese News Service

AND SPEAKING OF TYRANNY...

In a claim filed in New Orleans on behalf of David Koresh's widow, mother and about 80 other people, former Attorney General Ramsey Clark says the federal government should pay \$900 million for the deaths of David Koresh and 84 followers in the Branch Davidian compound near Waco. Clark, lead lawyer in the case, says the raids and ensuing 51-day siege of the group's rural home violated a number of federal rights, including freedom of religion and of movement and "all kinds of restraints on police conduct."

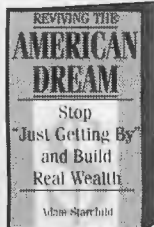
In a related development, on 18 August, Boise, Idaho attorney Chuck Peterson filed suit asking for a total of \$170 million in damages on behalf of Randy Weaver and his three daughters, against individual U.S. marshals, FBI agents and their supervisors for the wrongful death of wife and mother Vicky Weaver, and son Sammy. Sammy, then 14, was shot in the back by federal gunsels, and Vicky Weaver was shot in the head by FBI sniper Lon Horiuchi, as she stood in the doorway of their northern Idaho cabin holding their baby daughter, during a federal siege last year. These suits against individuals are in addition

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by Bill Holmes

Whether you're a craftsman interested in innovative firearms design and fabrication or a concerned citizen alarmed with the growing governmental gun-grabbing trend, this book belongs in your library. In it, Bill Holmes shares with you what will and won't work in designing and building rifles and shotguns from raw materials. You will benefit from Holmes' more than 50 years of experience in gun making from scratch as he details the fine points of creating actions, barrels, muzzle brakes, trigger assemblies, magazines, stocks and sights. You'll also gain valuable insight on materials, tools and equipment, design theory, ornamentation, fitting and assembly, firing and adjusting, heat treatment, metal finishing and his hard-won experiences with marketing prototype firearms. It is the next best thing to being an apprentice in a master gun maker's workshop. Even if you are not handy with tools, you can share this vital information with someone who is. All BATF and local law-enforcement rules apply. This book is for academic study only. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos, illus., 192 pp. **\$25.00**



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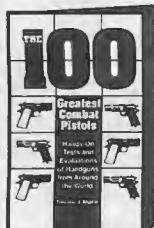
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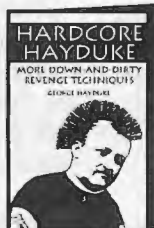
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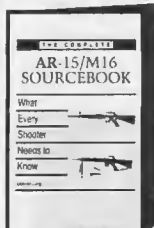
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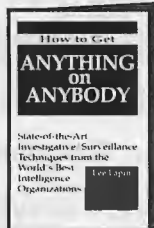
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to suits filed in early August against the federal government.

Further, Kevin Harris, also wounded in the fed's siege of the mountaintop cabin and acquitted in court of any criminal wrongdoing, has filed suit for more than \$10 million in damages against Horiuchi and 11 other federal agents.

NEW GUN LAW AND YOU

When does the ban on so-called "assault weapons" take effect?

On the date of "enactment" — the day President Clinton signed the bill. This ban has a "sunset" clause and may last 10 years, unless Congress chooses to repeal it sooner.

Do I have to turn in my firearms?

Not yet. This law "shall

not apply to the possession or transfer of any semiautomatic assault weapon otherwise lawfully possessed under Federal law on the date of the enactment of this subsection." In addition, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) must issue regulations as to how this new law will be enforced; when those regulations are issued, there will be a time delay for both public and possible congressional involvement.

How do I know if one of my firearms is affected?

There is a list of "approved" firearms in the bill. Further, it should be noted the new law states "the fact that a firearm is not listed in Appendix A shall not be construed to mean that [the ban] applies to such firearm." Again, we must wait for administra-

tive rulings from the BATF, who will rule on the new law's applicability to specific firearms and technical considerations.

Will I be able to sell a banned firearm or will it to a child?

If you possessed the firearm prior to the date of enactment, yes. The law states, "It shall be unlawful for a person to manufacture, transfer, or possess a semiautomatic assault weapon. [This] shall not apply to the possession or transfer of any semiautomatic assault weapon otherwise lawfully possessed under Federal law on the date of the [law's] enactment."

Will I be able to keep my magazines that exceed 10 rounds capacity?

Yes. The law states "[The magazine ban] shall not apply to the posses-

sion or transfer of any large capacity ammunition feeding device otherwise lawfully possessed on or before the date of the enactment of this subsection."

Must my magazines be registered?

Not at this time. The law states "The lack of a serial number ... shall be a presumption that the large capacity ammunition feeding device is not subject to the prohibition of possession."

(Compiled by and used courtesy of Gun Owners of America, 8001 Forbes Place #102, Springfield, VA 22141; phone: 703-321-8585.

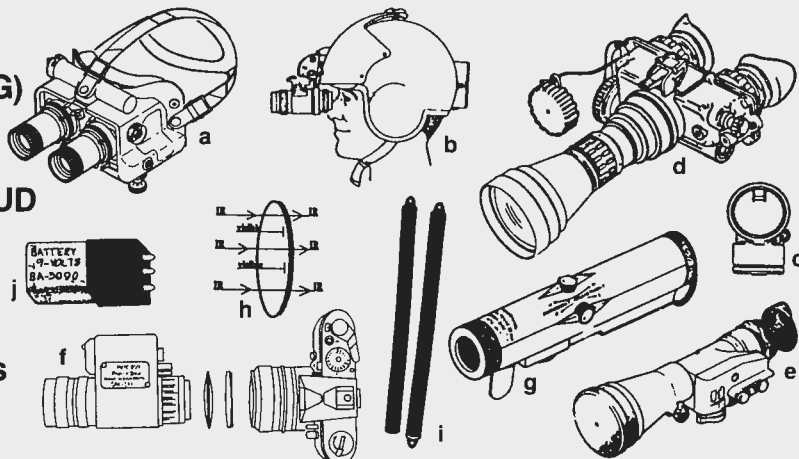
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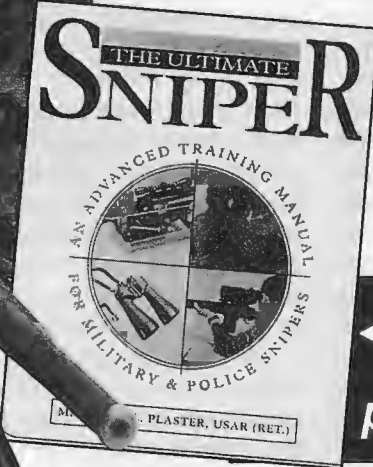
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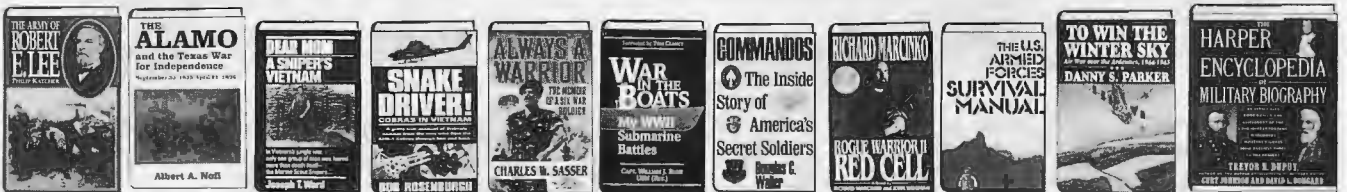
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from troops who were on the first lift of 82nd Airborne. An NCO called in to say that due to cuts and ensuing shortages, troops on crew-served weapons who carry the 9mm pistol and usually have a basic load of three magazines, were given only one 15-round magazine. The next caller was a first lieutenant, who was asked by the incredulous Limbaugh if this were true. "Sure is," the lieutenant replied, and in addition his riflemen were issued only seven 30-round magazines of 5.56 rifle ammo instead of a full load.

At this writing the most popular-and-sure-to-get-you-reprimanded bumper sticker being seen on POVs at Fort Bragg — "IS IT '96 YET?"

SLICK BATF WATCH...

1) If you think the Trea-

sury Department has plans to punish BATF agents responsible for the disastrous and deadly Branch Davidian botch, we'd like to sell you some slightly scorched church property near Waco, Texas. As of this writing, Charles Sarabyn remains on administrative leave with full pay and benefits. Sarabyn and his immediate supervisor Phil Chojnacki, two top agents in the Houston ATF office, were responsible for ordering the raid to go ahead, even though they knew their so-called plans had been compromised. Chojnacki was allowed to retire with full benefits.

2) Joe Vince, Special Agent in Charge (SAC) in Chicago, got bounced from his job after a travel voucher scam came to light. His punishment? Go to headquarters and serve in the shadow of the grand

wizard himself. Vince's tenure in Chicago also came up recently with information that the convictions of several members of the notorious El Ruku gang, thankfully imprisoned on a variety of gun and drug charges, are likely to be overturned. It was recently revealed that Vince's agents allowed informants to not only consume drugs in their presence, but let the snitches use government phones to make illicit transactions.

3) Consider Cummins Beatty, one of the ATF's top agents in Tennessee. His sexual predilection for young boys and his penchant for kiddie porn became the object of an internal affairs investigation. What to do? The ATF decided he was just a big, nasty silly that deserved a good slap on the wrist. He lost his supervisory position with the ATF and was

sent back to serve until his retirement in Alabama.

4) Oh yes, they've been busy little beavers at the BATF recently. As we go to press, a late-breaking story in *U.S. News & World Report* states that while for many years William M. Reece was considered among the most trusted BATF managers, developing and flying many missions for the ATF's fledgling air force, he is now the subject of a criminal investigation into one of the largest internal thefts in ATF history. The case involves the [alleged] theft of some \$1.5 million. Law enforcement sources were cited as saying that the ATF paid for "ghost services" and the investigation revolves around whether Reece, who retired in 1993, submitted false invoices between 1988 and 1993. ✕

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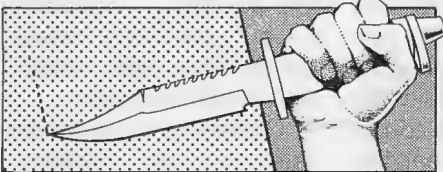
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You don't have to be in the service to appreciate a good boot. But it helps.

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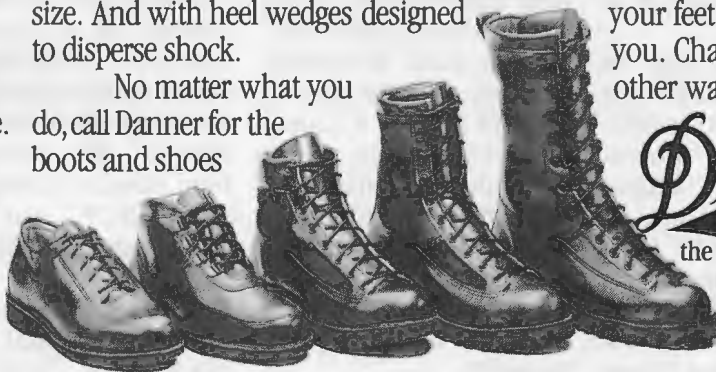
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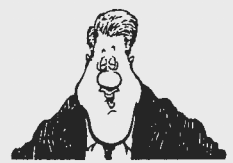
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SLICK WILLIE WATCH



FREE ENTERPRISE IN SPITE OF SLICK WILLIE

We've taken note before in this column of the amazing growth industries spawned in reaction to the foibles of the current administration, such as bumper stickers and newsletters. But that's not all. If there is any measurable economic upturn forecast it may well be due to the more-than-brisk sales of novelties inspired by Slick Willie's past vices, current failures and faltering future.

Here's some of the ones we wish we'd come up with, because they're making money:

WAFFLIN' WILLY —

A hot new board game, the object of which is to run through your presidency (i.e., around the board), hanging onto as many votes as you can, while trying to not let your past catch up with you. To do this you get a game board, a spinner, four Wafflin' Willys in different colored jogging shorts, vote vouchers, Congress cards, and The Past. The Past is a game piece shaped like a joint in a roach clip.

Players throw a die to find out how far they move — moving to the left whenever possible — around the game board, landing on squares that gain or lose votes, such as *Hate That Media*, *Time reports on the incredible shrinking president*. Lose 1 million votes. Or, *Here comes the judge!* Push through

Ginsberg nomination without anyone noticing! Win 1/2 million votes. The game costs \$24.95, and may be ordered toll free; phone: 800-492-3353.

The game is the creation of Kevin Russell and Kelly Meeks of Northampton, Massachusetts, who came up with the idea over a game of golf, while playing hooky from the comics publisher they work for.

SLICK WILLIE'S SACRIFICE —

A poor-man's *Monopoly* board game that comes in a pizza delivery box with its own issue of genuine coinage: 41 cents (a buck after taxes). But reality meets the road in this board game and the inevitable result is lost wages as politics melds with your money and the money disappears. The scenario in *Sacrifice* is to earn an honest buck in Willie's Washington, without getting fleeced by the feds. Lotsa luck!

The game is the brainchild of two Boulder locals, and is priced for the next election at only \$19.95 each. Since it came out a year ago, they've sold thousands of them and are getting fat. Not bad for a couple of college kids. See, Washington notwithstanding, free enterprise still can work if you "find a need and fill it." And the current administration definitely creates a need for levity.

A sidelight to this all-

American success story: When Tim Phelan and Matt Cevallos came up with the idea and then tried to find a graphic artist in the People's Republic of Boulder, getting a non-politically correct brush man to do the job was a job in itself. But it's a fun board to travel, what with landing on squares like *Bill's House of Waffles* — over 1 million sold and *LAX Hair Stylists* — \$200 while the taxpayers wait or *First Cousin Travel Services*, which will invariably cost you money. The object of the game is to get through the four-year administration (four times around the board) and come out the least broke.

Available for \$23.46 postpaid from Right in Boulder Inc., Dept. SOF, 1630 30th St. #465, Boulder CO 80301; or by phone: 303-444-3126.

CLINTON COMMEMORATIVE CONDOM —

Offered on a suitably framed sort-of parchment plaque for those who will want to semi-fondly remember the Clinton years (1992-1997?). The plaque is properly and tastelessly inscribed with penetrating insights, as a stimulating memento of this dysfunctional administration and its violations of the Constitution, etc. Available from Bohica Productions, Dept. SOF, Box 631, Manchester, MO 63011.

OUR FAVORITE —

Here's one that, like a great new invention, makes us wonder aloud,

"Why didn't we think of that!" This summer, heavy-hitting Republican contributors, including big-time Washington lobbyists, received a letter addressed to "Dear Special Friend," appealing for donations of up to \$1,000 to aid the "Clinton Investigative Commission." The Clinton Investigative Commission, of course, needed the money "to fund our investigation" of the Clintons — what else — but not many inside the Beltway were familiar with this organization.

On the letterhead were listed the "Hon. David C. Ray, Chairman" and "Andrew M. Price, Executive Director." Well, what's in a name? The "Hon." David C. Ray qualifies for his "honorable" by having been elected to the Fairfax County, Virginia, Soil and Water Conservation Board. Andrew M. Price turns out to be a student at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. When asked whether he was the commission's executive director, Price replied, "No, I don't think so."

Ahem. Well, dear readers, bear in mind that the never-ending fight to keep track of the foibles, fumbles and frightening future of the current administration is a thankless and thirsty job. Our continued fight rests solely in your generous hands. Send your non-tax-deductible donations to the SOF Editorial Staff Research and Beverage Fund, Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. ☒



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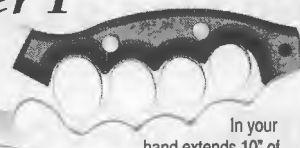
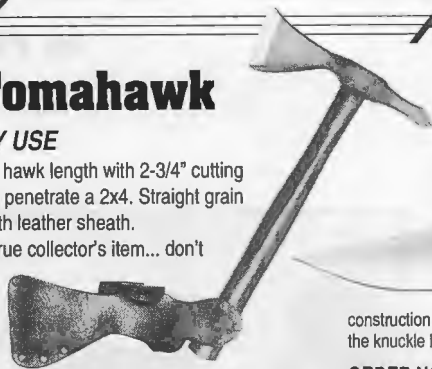
13-3/4" overall length. 8-1/2" hawk length with 2-3/4" cutting edge and a 3" spike that can penetrate a 2x4. Straight grain hickory handle. Complete with leather sheath.

Approximate weight 1 lb. A true collector's item... don't let this one pass you by!

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In your hand extends 10" of razor sharp stainless steel. With your fingers thru the stainless knuckleguard and wrapped around the ebony pakkawood handle, you will be amazed at the power one knife can have. Full tang construction assures performance when other knives may fail. Over 15" long, this knife has been called the knuckle knife of the 90's. Complete with top grain leather sheath with quick release velcro strap.

ORDER NO. D-9117 Retail \$95.00 Bud K. Price \$47.97

CIA Gravity Knife

Exclusively designed by Bud K. This knife is lightning fast — with a push of a button, out slides a 3-1/4" heat-tempered stainless steel blade. Releasing the button locks the blade into position. 8" overall.

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According to U.S. Customs, Balisongs can no longer be imported, but Bud K takes up the slack with this well made butterfly knife. The blade is 4" long and when opened stretches to a whopping 9". The skeleton handle gives the knife a hi-tech look. CALL TODAY... At this low price, quantities will not last long.

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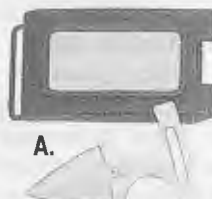
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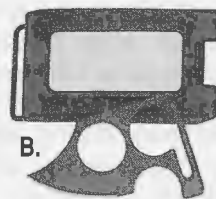


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A.



B.

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B. Black w/Finger Holes - ORDER NO. BK-5

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CIA Sleeve Daggers

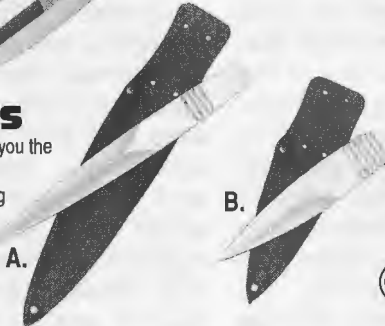
The Stingers fully sharpened double edge blade can give you the edge in any situation. The blades are of a diamond cross-section design with grooves in the base to provide gripping power for the thumb and forefinger. Perfectly balanced for handle or blade throwing. Sheath included. You will be amazed by the penetrating power of the stingers.

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Also available...a smaller version of the above. 11" overall.

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Grand Old Lady of No Man's Land

by Peter G. Kokalis

The Grand Old Lady of No Man's Land: The Vickers Machinegun, by Dolf L. Goldsmith. 1994. Deluxe first edition. Five hundred sixty-eight pages with 686 illustrations. \$79.95, postpaid. Collector Grade Publications Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1046, Cobourg, Ontario, Canada K9A 4W5. Phone: 905-342-3434.

On 24 August, 1916, 10 Vickers water-cooled medium machine guns of the British 100th Machinegun Company were grouped in Savoy Trench to support an assault on High Wood in what became the most famous machine-gun barrage fired during World War I. The attack was a brilliant success, due largely to the fact that during a 12-hour period, 250 rounds short of 1 million

were fired at a range of 2,000 yards by the 10 guns; at least four gas cans of water in addition to all the canteens and urine tins of the company were emptied into the water jackets for cooling purposes, and two soldiers operated a belt-loading machine without stopping once during that time frame. One gun crew fired more than 120,000 rounds.

The Vickers machine gun was adopted by the British as the "Gun, Machine, .303, Mark I" on 12 November 1912. It was a lightened and heavily modified Maxim with the toggle action placed upside-down so that the toggle broke upwards into the previously wasted space behind the feed block in the receiver. Before simplifications in the manufacturing process increased the weight to

33 pounds, the original Vickers gun weighed 28 pounds, exactly half the 56 pounds of a British Service Maxim.

More than 75,000 Vickers guns were manufactured during World War I. Starting in 1939, another 12,000 were produced during World War II. The Vickers



A gun team of the 2/2nd Australian Machinegun Battalion at Tel El Eisa, Egypt, 1 August 1942. Note the oilcan. Normally the gun was not kept oiled to prevent "sanding up," so the oilcan had to be kept ready once firing commenced. Photo: Australian War Memorial

was phased out of British service in 1962 when the FN MAG 58 GPMG was adopted. Many Vickers gunners were bitterly disappointed. Apparently to prove a point, in 1963 at Strensall Barracks in Yorkshire, 5 million rounds were fired from a *single* Vickers gun, which was kept in constant use for seven days and seven nights. The two-man crew was relieved every 30 minutes, and the gun fired 250-round belts at the cyclic rate. Barrels were changed every 1 to 1½ hours. After this ordeal the gun was inspected and gauged with no measurable differences anywhere.

These are just a few of the fascinating anecdotes and facts of the many thousands that fill the pages of my friend Dolf Goldsmith's remarkable book on one of the great, classic machine

guns of all time.

Starting with a brief, but incisive history of the Vickers company, Goldsmith leads his readers through the birth of the Vickers machine gun and its eventual adoption by the British. Salient portions of the early trials reports are cited as well as explicit World War I production details and descriptions of the eventual modifications.

There is a detailed discussion of the initial disregard of the machine gun by the Sandhurst crowd, who preferred to debate the sword vs. the lance in a cavalry charge. Those few far-sighted junior officers who envisioned the machine gun's eventual dominance, were accused of a lack of the "cavalry spirit" — the kiss of death to their careers. The growth of the British army's Machinegun Corps was a costly expe-



Machine gunners firing at a Turkish airplane at Hari Kupri during World War II. The tripod is fitted with the infrequently seen "overbank" cradle. Reversing the gun on the tripod was the most common form of AA mounting. Photo: Imperial War Museum

rience purchased with the lives of many tens of thousands of British soldiers.

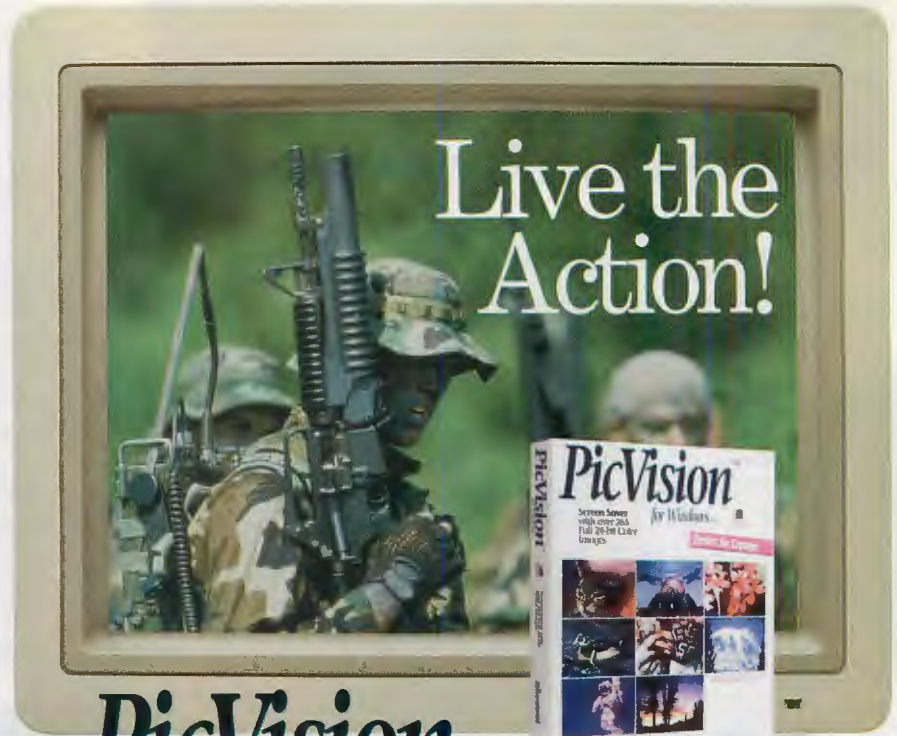
This desperate game of "catch-up" applied to the Royal Flying Corps as well, and Goldsmith's chapter on this topic provides a maze of interesting information about synchronizers, the Veeder round counter and the development of disintegrating links.

Among the other topics included in this amazing encyclopedia of the Vickers machine gun are: the British Service Vickers from 1919 to 1968, with an intriguing section on motorized installations; the U.S. Model 1915 Vickers; the Vickers in Canada, New Zealand and Australia (all Australian-manufactured Vickers had smooth water jackets), including an interesting aside on the controversy of who actually killed the Red Baron; and special models of the Vickers gun.

Throughout, the archival photography is exceptional in both quality and diversity, which matches the text. As an example, the chapter entitled "The Vickers Around the World" documents its deployment by Abyssinia, Austria, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, British Colonial Africa, Chile, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador (one of the earliest purchasers), Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iraq, Ireland, Israel (converted to 7.92mm), Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, South Africa (converted to 7.62x51mm NATO), Romania, Russia, Thailand, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Yugoslavia and Venezuela, illustrated with 110 photographs!

The technical and mechanical chapter covers the theory of operation, loading and unloading, detailed stripping instructions and notes on the rate of fire. The section on accessories, ancillaries and ammunition discusses tripods, ammunition boxes, belts, belt-loading machines, condensers and barrel cooling accessories, muzzle attachments, BFAs, spare parts chests, training aids, transport and

Continued on page 58



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1

UNITED STATES

Agrees to pay \$100,000 to each family of the 11 foreigners killed in Iraq when U.S. planes shot down two U.S. helicopters.

Deputy Defense Secretary John Deutch advises services that major cuts in new weapons programs are needed to meet budget goals for next five years. Targeted programs include the Comanche helicopter, V-22 Osprey and F-22 Stealth fighter, among others.

President Clinton reverses a 32-year policy that granted Cubans escaping the island automatic status as political refugees in an effort to cut down on the number taking to sea. Rescued Cubans are being detained at Guantanamo Bay until other countries agree to take them.

2

RUSSIA

Withdraws troops from Estonia following an agreement on Russian citizens residing there, and evacuates its Berlin garrison. Russian commanders admit they told their troops to take home everything they could remove from the abandoned bases, "since even a cement pole could be traded in Russia for five pigs."

Ruslan Khasbulatov, former parliament chairman ousted in the assault on parliament, appears in his native Chechenya, an autonomous region north of the Caucasus, trying to mediate between ruling and pro-Moscow factions. Pro-Moscow factions claim they have obtained helicopters and armored vehicles to overthrow President Dudayev. Ruling party vows to shoot down any Russian aircraft flying over the republic.

7

BOSNIA

Serb troops try to raid three U.N. weapons depots near Sarajevo, but are blocked by French troops. Serbs continue to reject Contact Group's peace plans, and Muslims continue to demand lifting of the arms embargo. France and other nations providing forces warn they will withdraw if arms embargo is lifted.

3

6

GERMANY

Has become crossroads for illegal shipments of stolen Russian nuclear material handled by the "nuclear mafia," in part because former East German intelligence and military personnel are using contacts in Russia to set up deals. Some fear active German efforts to catch nuclear smugglers with phony buyers may be attracting more smugglers than would otherwise be operating.

Allied forces complete withdrawal from occupied Berlin.

1

11

11

HAITI

Caribbean military leaders from Jamaica, Barbados, The Bahamas, Belize, Antigua and Trinidad meet to form a 266-man battalion for peacekeeping duties after any U.S. invasion. Amnesty International stresses any invasion must be accompanied by human rights monitors.

U.S. officials assert their multi-national force will land in Haiti "soon" and military leaders should leave now, or face justice when it arrives.

10

NORTH/SOUTH KOREA

Talks continue to revolve around inspecting, updating and financing North Korean nuclear reactors without progress. U.S. and South Korea begin a computerized wargame simulating a North Korean invasion. The U.S. 7th Fleet took part for the first time.

14

SOMALIA

Clashes continue between gunmen and U.N. forces. Gunmen surrounding the World Food program warehouse in Mogadishu left after being paid several thousand dollars. Aidid continues demands for U.N. compensation for the deaths of 12,000 of his followers.

Last American combat unit, a Marine FAST platoon, pulls out, marking the end of U.S. involvement.

3

GREAT BRITAIN

Parliamentary committee condemns Challenger I tanks as badly designed and difficult to maintain. Designed to enhance crew survivability, the turret makes tank difficult to operate — and main gun is notoriously inaccurate. On average, only 23% of the vehicles in the British Army of the Rhine were ready for service at any one time. Manufacturer maintains that availability rates improve dramatically when government provides enough mechanics and spare parts.

4

INDIA

Finds MiG-29s difficult to maintain. Spare parts stockpiles, expected to last through 2001, have been depleted, and availability rates (for an air force that flies only 15 hours per month) are only 67%. Problems include inadequate maintenance and poor manufacturing — of 188 engines, 122 failed prematurely and were sent back to Russia.

5

TURKEY

Continues bombing PKK bases in northern Iran and Iraq, killing 387 and wounding 135.

Trial begins for six Kurdish parliamentary deputies charged with treason for supporting PKK.

16

2

8

LEBANON

Israel offers to withdraw troops from security zone if Lebanese army deploys in the South, disarms Hezbollah and prevents any attacks for six months. Lebanese officials scoff, arguing any deal must be part of a Syrian/Israeli agreement.

9

SRI LANKA

People's Alliance wins a narrow parliamentary majority and sets up a panel to probe the fate of thousands of leftists who disappeared during the 1988-90 crackdown. This may set the stage for a purge of the military and police.

6

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ANGOLA

Peace talks stall over question of who will control vital province of Huambo. UNITA claims government is trying to reverse battlefield defeats at the peace table, while government insists rebels cannot keep spoils of war.

14

12

CAMBODIA

Government forces begin shelling Vine Mountain, Khmer Rouge base where 16 hostages are being held. KR refuses to guarantee safety of hostages.

Prince Chakrapong (implicated in July coup) reportedly has joined a KR faction.

13

15

15

SOUTH AFRICA

On his 100th day in office, Mandela admits the ANC Party is in tatters. He faces the collapse of his health care program and a crime wave that results in 54 deaths and 87 rapes every day, along with continued reports of excessive force by police. Blacks are disappointed at the lack of immediate improvement in their lives.

16

FINLAND

A bill in parliament would for the first time allow women to serve in the military.

World SitRep is excerpted from the biweekly newsletter *For Your Eyes Only: An Open Intelligence Summary of Current Military Affairs*. Published by Tiger Publications, P.O. Box 8759, Amarillo, Texas, 79114-8759; subscriptions are \$65 per year (26 issues). Sample issue available for \$3. Those interested in reliable, up-to-date world intel are encouraged to subscribe.

SECOND AMENDMENT O.P.

Roots of Resistance

by Robert K. Brown

For years the NRA has treated the concept of grass-roots activism as a poor stepchild. There's no point in wasting effort trying to determine why this is the case, but it needs to change. During the last few months there has been some improvement, but there's still a long way to go.

By way of example, Gun Owners of America sent out numerous faxes to interested parties among its membership, updating them on the progress of Biliary's pork-laden "Hug-A-Thug" crime bill and telling them what they need to do. Whereas by my count, the NRA sent out one.

As a member of the NRA board of directors, I have suggested the NRA make a concerted effort to assist in communication between grass-roots organizations by serving as a clearinghouse for all

such organizations and by accumulating and forwarding names and addresses to each member group. If this were done, said organizations could easily mail their publications or bulletins to their compatriots who could then determine if any specific tactic

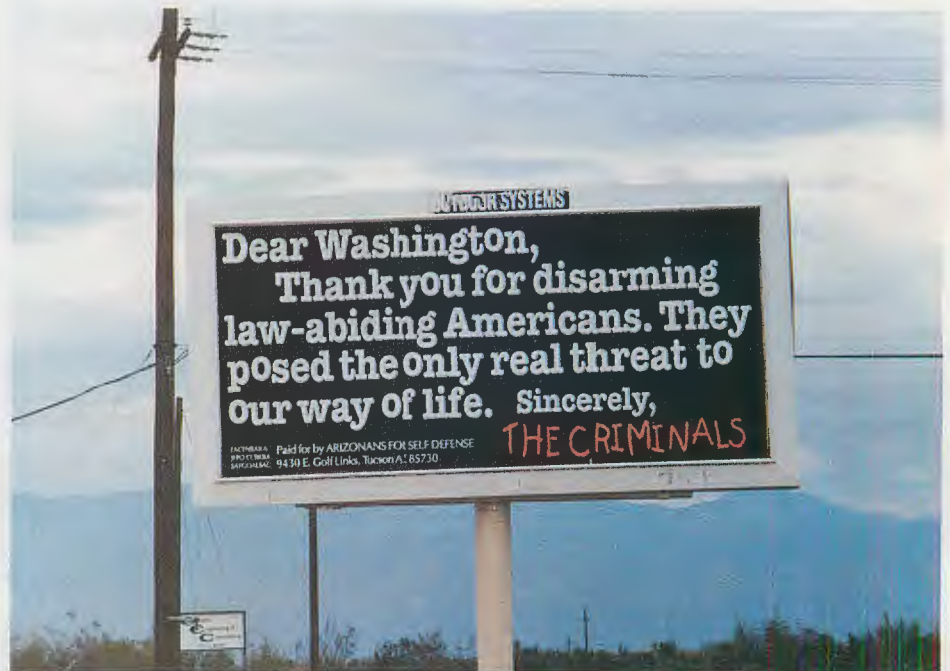
or technique would be of value in their state or district.

For instance, after a number of senators betrayed us by voting for the Feinstein Amendment, Gary Marbut, president of the Montana Shooting Sports Association

(MSSA), started running radio spots attacking Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) for his vote. He also encouraged like-minded individuals to take up collections and buy time on their local radio stations. Upon becoming aware of the MSSA's program, the Firearms Coalition of Colorado (FCC) contacted Marbut, requested a copy of the radio scripts, revised the copy to fit the particular situation in Colorado, and started attacking Colorado Sens. Hank Brown (R-CO) and Ben Nighthorse Campbell (D-CO), who also voted the wrong way. Their radio ads caused so much heat that Brown's office started calling the FCC asking, "Why are you doing this?" The FCC's response was simply, "Because you betrayed us."

Another example: The pro-gun group Arizonians For Self-Defense have come up with another effective technique — billboards. Vietnam vet B.E. "Bernie" Oliver Jr. and Phillip W. Murphy, who head up this organization, in a letter to me, pointed out the following:

"Eight of these bill-



PEOPLE FROM THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION MAKING AN ARREST!



boards [see photo] have already been erected through the efforts of concerned Tucsonans who have been so frustrated by elitist political rhetoric and media hype that they sought an inexpensive means to get their message out to a largely ignorant and apathetic public."

Oliver and Murphy successfully presented the idea of raising money for the billboards to their 250 members in the Firearms Action Committee, Tucson (FACT), resulting in televised media coverage and the attendant political outcry from the small, but always vocal, anti-gun crowd. FACT's well-coordinated program managed to get sponsorship from local and national organizations, including: NRA/ILA, Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership (JFPO), Citizens' Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, Second Amendment Foundation, Gun Owners of America and the Libertarian Second Amendment Caucus. The effort has been so well received that area gun dealers are offering items for a raffle to support even more billboards and keep them up through the general elections.

Arizonans For Self-Defense hopes to see a grass-roots campaign similar to their own spring up across the nation.

In order to facilitate coordination between and cross-pollination of grass-roots organizations, SOF will serve as a basic clearing-house. Send the name of your organization to Grass Roots, c/o SOF, Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306, and we will pass them on to other like-minded groups around the country. It's not the best of all possible worlds, but it's a start.

Addresses of mentioned groups:

1. Arizonans For Self-Defense, 2610 S. Portia Ave., Tucson, AZ 85730; phone: 602-296-5337; aol: bbs.infop.com.

2. FACT, Box 2731, Tucson, AZ 85726.

3. Firearms Coalition of Colorado, Box 1454, Englewood, CO 80150; phone: 303-369-4867.

4. Montana Shooting Sports Association, Box 4924, Missoula, MT 59806; phone: 406-549-1252. ☒

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THE SECRET IS OUT

The following letter created a stir when it was read by Charlton Heston on the Rush Limbaugh radio show. Several readers have requested we print it, so here it is:

I was embarrassed to read that President Clinton and his advisers have said, "The older generation must learn to sacrifice as other generations have done." That's my generation.

I knew eventually someone would ferret out the dirty secret: We've lived the "lifestyle of the rich and famous" all our lives. Now, I know I must bare the truth about my generation and let the country condemn us for our selfishness.

During the Depression we had a hilarious time dancing to the tune of "Brother Can You Spare A Dime?" We could choose to dine at any of the country's fabulous soup kitchens, often joined by our parents and siblings. Those were the heady days of carefree self-indulgence.

Then, with World War II, the cup filled to overflowing. We had the chance to bask on the exotic beaches of Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima and Okinawa; to see the capitals of Europe and travel to such scenic spots as Bastogne, Malmedy and Monte Cassino. Of course, one of the most exhilarating adventures was the stroll from Bataan to the local Japanese ho-

tels, laughingly known as death camps.

But the good times really rolled for those lucky enough to be on the beaches of Normandy for the swimming and boating that pleasant June day in '44. Unforgettable. Even luckier were those who drew the prized

ish us for our failings, sir, that we may learn the true meaning of duty, honor, country.

Robert J. Grady
Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.)
Colorado Springs, CO

REIGN OF ASSES

Robert K. Brown's
"Remember In Novem-

picked up a rifle more than 200 years ago.

In their wallowing-in-power zeal to remove from law-abiding citizens the right to *bear* arms, they are causing a helluva lot of Americans to feel the need to *bury* arms, in case it becomes necessary to take this country back from the witless and transient herd now in charge.

Just as the once great civilization of Pompeii was buried under a rain of ashes ages ago, our rights and freedoms are being buried under a reign of asses in Washington now. Lock and load!

Bill Lawson
Costa Mesa, California



holiday tickets for cruises on sleek, gray ships to fun-filled spots like Midway, the Solomon and Murmansk.

Instead of asking "What can we do for our country," an indulgent government let us fritter away our youths wandering idly through the lush and lovely jungles of Burma and New Guinea.

Yes, it's all true; we were pampered; we were spoiled rotten; we never did realize what sacrifice meant. We envy you, Mr. Clinton, the harsh lessons you learned in London, Moscow and Little Rock.

My generation is old, Mr. President ... and guilty, but we are repentant. Pun-

ber" (Command Guidance, *SOF* Oct. '94) was dead on target about the Biliary administration, our bozos on the beltway and the \$30 billion band-aid Crime Bill. It's a crime Bill is in the White House at all.

Along with the bought-and-paid-for media, their collective Gestapo-like banning of firearms totally ignores our Constitution, individual rights and the Second Amendment. Hell, these puke-provoking, peacenik nitwits didn't come to Washington to "change the establishment"; it's clear now they intend to destroy what this country has stood for since the first Minuteman

CLINTON MATH: 19=180

The Feinstein semiauto ban passed by both houses of Congress in August represents one of the grossest acts of treachery, oath-breaking and outright lying in the history of that body.

The unprincipled, mendacious scoundrels in Congress who pushed and supported that bill, starting with Sens. Feinstein, Biden and Metzenbaum and representatives like Schumer down to weasely turncoats like Huffington — and yes, the lying president himself — have deliberately, knowingly, repeatedly lied to media and public alike, claiming the measure would outlaw "only 19 guns."

And the gutless, fawn-

ing, incompetent media uncritically parroted the Big Lie and the public swallowed it. Media and politicians alike scoffed at warnings by the NRA that the bill would outlaw some 180-plus guns. Now the media have awakened to the facts. Even *The New York Times* is reporting the truth, the bill does ban some 180 firearms.

Have we had an apology from the liars and scoundrels of the majority party, from the administration, from the turncoats of the minority party? Have we had any amendment in the bill to make it conform to the 19-gun mendacity. No, not a peep from a single politician who supported the measure, who lied to us as to what it would do. Not a whisper of apology from the press or the radio, or from those glib talking heads on TV, who so grossly misinformed the American people.

Don't hold your breath waiting for an apology. The lie has been swallowed, the hook has been set, we've been had. The scoundrels in Congress are quietly congratulating themselves that they got away with it again, that they successfully sliced away one more chunk of our constitutional rights. This is the way liberty is destroyed, one slice at a time — until nothing is left. It's no wonder there are outraged rumblings across the nation, with suggestions of the R-word whispered on the wind, the R-word — Revolution. After all, we had one the last time our government tried to disarm us.

Fielding Greaves
San Rafael, California

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?

After reading your article on Somalia, I felt the need to respond. Having lost a brother in Somalia, I cannot express the anger, hurt and frustration our family has felt.

I never thought this country would allow its military men to be led to their deaths by a commander in chief who refused to serve. A CinC who loathes the military, who has brought the military to an all time low, one who led riots *against* the military.

Eighteen professional military men were not given the tools of their trade and they died.

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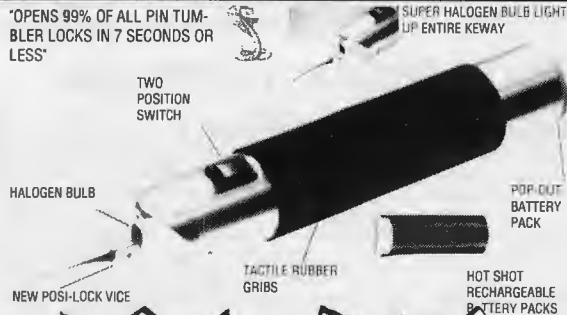
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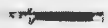


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Why? Recently, Clinton went to Watertown, New York, and stated: "If anyone wants to debate Somalia, debate it with me." Yet he refuses to phone the families or respond to letters from them.

A few sentences can basically describe this undesirable: He ran from his country; he refused to serve; he smokes pot but doesn't inhale; he sent tanks to Waco to kill 80 Americans but refused to send one to Somalia and killed 18. Now he says, trust me America, turn in your guns, I'll protect you, trust me.

As a law enforcement official, I can honestly say I've met felons with more integrity and credibility.

William Wolcott
Glenham, New York

RANGER RICK ON THE MARK

I'd like to add to your comments about KATUSAs not being worth two cents. I'm with the 2nd Infantry Division and the KATUSAs here aren't worth a damn either. Though they think they are God's gift to the U.S. Army because they only

BURNING QUESTION

One thing I can't understand about the inferno at Waco is that if the feds used heat-sensing technology to locate the people in the building, how could they not know where the lamps that allegedly started the fire were?

Could this be why the tanks were sent in where they were, to knock the lamps over and thereby incinerate much potentially embarrassing evidence?

Name withheld on request

DEATH OF A REGIMENT

As of September '94 the 9th Marine Regiment is history. One of only nine active duty Marine infantry regiments, the 9th Marines has served since 1917.

I served with the 9th Marines, including the 1st Battalion in Vietnam, and always regarded it as my regiment in a manner that was essential for unit *esprit*. While I know there are reasonable and compelling reasons to deactivate the 9th Marines, my unreasonable nature resists this loss of my collective past along with

all those others who have served — three former commandants of the Marine Corps and nine Medal of Honor winners (five posthumous), just to name a few.

So the next time the departed are recalled, have a drink in honor to the Striking Ninth — "The regiment is dead, long live

the regiment!"
Charles D. Melson
Stevensville, Maryland

WRITE TO SOF.....

We invite reader comments: Send letters to *SOF*, c/o FLAK, PO Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. Due to limited space we reserve the right to edit for content and brevity. ✕



make \$10 a month (though their parents send them another \$300), the program is bullshit and they should be shipped to the ROKs so they can get some DMZ time.

Ranger Rick is 100% right — the only thing they do is sleep, wait for chow and put in enough time to get rank. There's really nothing to them but wasted time and money.

Name withheld on request



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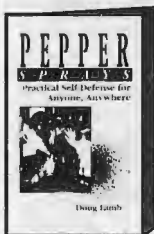
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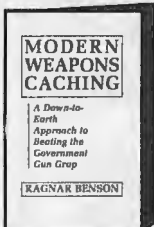
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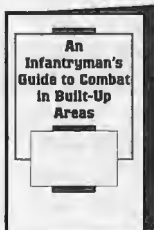


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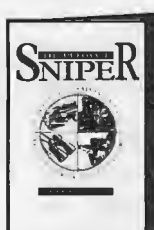


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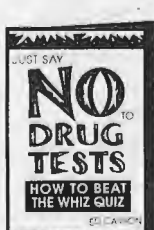


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I WAS THERE

Cold Warriors

Text & Photo by James Sifnas

Thirteen thousand horsepower from four Wright R-3350-34 supercharged engines hurled our U.S. Navy WV-2 Warning Star down the icy runway toward the ocean. Even with more than 72 tons of aircraft, 6 tons of radar gear and 4 tons of fuel, 50-knot crosswinds sawed heavily at the big plane, a modified Super Constellation. Blowing snow reduced visibility to 600 feet and there was no instrument departure aid — the radio-range antenna had blown down again. We had no room to complain, having before flown in 100-mph winds; we knew the Superconnie could take it.

Thus began a typical 15-hour barrier flight from U.S. Naval Facility Argentia, Newfoundland, Canada, down to the Azores and back. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, the Superconnies of Barrier Force Atlantic maintained a constant vigil in some of the most treacherous weather in the world.

By 1957, Airborne Early Warning Squadron 11 was in its second year of flying the barrier, an electronic wall 2,000 miles long, 500 miles wide and 100 miles high stretching from Newfoundland to the Azores. Together with our sister squadrons, VW-13 and VW-15, we provided an airborne extension to the Distant Early Warning line

to prevent a surprise attack from the air or sea in the early years of the Cold War.

So as not to interfere with commercial flights, we leveled off at 6,000 feet. The nose, 600-gallon wingtip tanks, tail and prop spinners instantly began picking up ice. I checked the side windows and could make out at

power, we were unable to climb without losing air-speed. The wing's steep angle of attack contributed to our icing problem.

I knew people on the ground had it worse. I had seen men swept off wings while gassing Superconnies in gale force winds. Tractors often tugged in tandem, struggling to pull other ships off

tures required a special cooling system to relieve the heat generated from 3,000 vacuum tubes in radar and electronics equipment.

For the 15-hour flights we generally went about business as usual, keeping a close eye on the altimeter and air speed indicator. Our crew of 26 performed each of their

specified tasks flawlessly. Five APS-20 and APS-45 radar men scanned their scopes for any unwelcome company, while in the extreme aft our relief crew dozed in racks near the galley. On this trip we picked up a rare find through my drift scope (a device used to measure the angle of wave flow): a Soviet *Sverdlov* class cruiser likely bound for Cuba. I relayed this to the Combat Information Center (CIC), the nerve center of the ship where



Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, the Superconnies of Barrier Force Atlantic maintained a constant vigil in some of the most treacherous weather in the world.

least 4 inches gathering on engine cowlings and the aft radio antenna. But of greater concern was the windshield. Even with the de-icer on high, the blower would still only clear a small portion at the top. Not ideal, but at 30 degrees below zero, not unexpected either. Once clear of the Newfoundland coast, we would receive clearance to climb to 12,000 feet. Even using maximum cruising

the ice. And once at the hangar, the job of getting such a huge plane inside was complicated by frozen doors which, even though heated, thawed only to the touch of a senior chief's blow torch.

Maintenance crews went through 700 spark plugs a month and many days worked in below freezing temperatures, even inside. Ironically, the same airplane that flew in minus 30-degree tempera-

search and intercept problems were analyzed for transmission to ship or shore via UHF radios.

On initial approach during our return to Argentia, we heard the familiar cracking sounds as the pilot lowered the flaps, prying away large chunks of ice under the wings. It had warmed considerably since we left, but higher temperatures resulted in

Continued on page 60

"And, of course, the most amazing thing is how fast you can learn it!"

Top Secret Hand-To-Hand Fighting System Finally Released To Limited Number Of Civilians!

Now, with the sudden release of this incredible elite military fighting system, you can easily "take down" trained boxers, Karate black belt masters and street thugs twice your size... even if you've never been in a real fight before in your life!

— by Dr. R. L. Horine —

Dear Friend,

A year ago I would have *never* written you this letter. You see, I've gotten on the "inside" with some of the most dangerous soldiers and law enforcement people on the planet (including members of the Navy SEALs and combat instructors for the DEA, Army Rangers, major police department SWAT teams and others.)...

We all shared the same arrogant attitude: This new "simplified" hand-to-hand fighting system created for combat and intense criminal warfare should *not* be released to the general public. Because...

It's Just Too Dangerous To Be Allowed To Fall Into The Wrong Hands!

I initially felt the same. But I've recently changed my mind in a big way... all because of a beautiful woman named Julie. I'm ashamed that I withheld these important street-fighting skills from people like her — good people (like you, too), who are *unnecessarily* walking the streets as living targets for the criminal scum who prey on innocent victims and just love to humiliate and ruin people's lives.

Here's what happened: Julie was assaulted and badly beaten, by a man she could have easily knocked unconscious and escaped from — if only I had taken **15 minutes** to teach her what to do! It doesn't matter that she's a petite and gentle woman. The few simple skills of this new fighting system can be taught to *anyone* in an almost unbelievable short time, because it requires no strength, no agility, no special talents, no speed, *no nothing!* Forget what you see on T.V. — the most effective fighters in the world never use spinning head kicks or elaborate punches... in fact, they never "punch" at all. It's all so much more **simple** than that — I've seen 60-year-old grandfathers and 13-year-old teenagers *master* this stuff almost overnight. For people like *you*, well, it's even easier.

Julie knows how to defeat 99% of all street thugs **now**... but she was taught just a little too late to avoid those emotional scars she'll have to live with for the rest of her life. And now, in all honesty, I'm doing my damned best to make sure every "good guy" I can reach *never* has to

go through what this lovely lady did...

And I Don't Care What The Military, Or Anyone Else, Says!

Here's the bottom line: How safe do you feel in today's jungle-world? Are you even remotely interested in learning how (in a matter of mere hours) to turn any attacker or bully into a pile of bleeding beef at your feet — and so *automatically* — that you (or your loved ones) can always *terminate a dangerous physical assault situation before it even begins?* Would you like to have the confidence to walk nearly any street in the world, any time of day or night... knowing without question you can "neutralize" the threat of physical assault by criminal scum as easily and thoughtlessly as you would shoo away an alley cat?

I guarantee that if you are like every other man I've talked with in the last year, just *reading* this short message you have in your hands will start amazing changes to happen in your life! Changes that will turn you into a true modern-day warrior...

With So Much New Confidence Leaking From Your Pores People Will Take Notice From Across The Room!

I don't care if you're in the worst physical shape of your life, or even if you've never hit another person before, or don't have the coordination to walk and chew gum.

Julie learned it... *and* a thousand guys smaller and weaker than you have learned it, too. Almost *overnight*. A Navy SEAL combat instructor told us that this fighting system can turn *anyone* into a potent hand-to-hand fighter. He said it's amazingly easy to learn, easy to remember, and best of all, *easy to use* when needed!

Are you skeptical? Good. That means you're not gullible, not easily fooled. But then almost everyone I've met in the last year has been just as skeptical as you. And listen to what happened:

— A pint-sized writer I know from Los Angeles was nursing a broken rib when he was bear-hugged from behind by a construction worker bully who outweighed him by at least thirty pounds. Now, this writer had never been in a real fight before in his life... in fact, his

only training came from just *watching* the 8 basic moves of this fighting system on video tape... one time! Yet he automatically used one of those "moves" the second he felt his rib begin to give...

And Was Astonished To Turn Around And See His Attacker Down And Whimpering On The Sidewalk!

— A fairly well-known West Coast body-builder and ex-college middle linebacker named **Bob Pierce** (6 foot 4, 240 pounds of raw muscle), who also had studied Judo for 4 years, absolutely did *not* believe that a little guy like me (5' 6", *maybe* 170 lbs. soaking wet) could "put him down" *if he surprised me from behind!* Well, I did... and he's still tender where I "controlled" him with the simplest little move — and damn lucky I decided not to teach him a *real* lesson about going after smaller guys!

— A working mother named **Cindy Bowes** from Ohio... after *glancing* at this stuff (on a video), could only remember **one move** when she was assaulted by a man on her front lawn — but that one move put her assailant into such a boggled state that she was able to leisurely call the police and have him hauled off.

Here's how this amazing fighting system "leaked" from the most elite military circles into your hands: You've never heard about **Paul Vunak**, but the SEALs, FBI, CIA and a dozen police department SWAT teams have. He is without question one of the most respected — and *dangerous* — men in the world at hand-to-hand combat — teaching it, and using it. For over 20 years he's been mixing it up with every sort of fighting "expert" you can imagine... on the street, "in the clutch", and in thousands of situations where his life was absolutely on the line.

The U.S. Navy SEALs brought Paul in to teach them his unique system after an exhaustive worldwide search for the *best* hand-to-hand combat system in existence. Paul didn't ask them, mind you... **they asked him.** That's how serious Paul's reputation is in the world of real-life warfare. The SEALs, you probably know, are flat-out the most deadly-efficient soldiers on the planet. They

won't even *consider* a fighting system — especially a hand-to-hand one — unless it can be taught quickly and used with **100% effectiveness, 100% of the time.**

These Professional Soldiers Know If Their Training Fails, They Will Die In Combat!

That's why the **SEALS** love Paul's system. It incorporates real-life fighting tools no other system has; yet it can be mastered in an astonishingly short time. These soldiers have to spend most of their training time getting in shape, learning complex weapons, and studying top secret military operations. They simply do not have the time to bang around in dojos learning complicated martial arts like karate or Tae Kwan do.

In fact, if you talk to a **SEAL** about martial arts, he'll *laugh* at you. They know it can take *10 years* to become a black belt in any given discipline... and even then, your average YMCA-trained boxer will still dismantle your ass in about 10 seconds!

Most of these super-elite soldiers have black belts in a martial art (sometimes three or four)... but they don't even *consider* using any of it. All that fancy kicking and hacking may look scary, but it doesn't work on the battle field... or in the street.

It simply doesn't work.

Imagine this: You're a **SEAL** out in the action; you've just crawled through miles of dense jungle, you haven't eaten for three days, you're dehydrated, sick from dysentery, wounded in two places, out of ammo, and carrying a sixty-pound pack.

You *ain't* gonna rely on a Hollywood spinning round-house kick when the enemy ambushes you. That's not the way real fighting happens. And that's why Paul Vunak's "simplified" hand-to-hand system is so treasured by the soldiers and police and federal agents who need to *rely* on it.

*** There are no complicated moves!** In fact, in Paul's "basic" system, there are *only 8 moves total!* And all of them are unbelievably effective, and all can be learned and *mastered* in only a matter of hours.

*** You don't have to be quick, or coordinated, or even in decent physical shape!** All the deadly power comes from extensions of the way your body *naturally* moves. This is called your "gross motor skills" — the same simple movements you use to walk across the room, to scratch your ear, or to step into a car. (I've seen 5-year-old kids who still run funny take down bullies twice their size and age... and little old ladies with limps cancel out young violent men!)

*** You don't need to train constantly to become a master of this system!** The **SEALS**, the cops, the agents... *none* of them have time to waste in training. Even they *feel* confident using Paul's system even after a *single lesson!* (As you will, too!)

*** Plus, just as importantly, there is no formality, no religious nonsense or bowing or wearing odd uniforms in this system!** It is

not martial arts — it is a simplified fighting system that goes *beyond* the street-smarts any martial art could ever offer you!

So how did Paul come up with this amazing fighting system? First of all, he's very well-known in the martial art field. He studied with the legendary **Dan Ionsanto** — original partner of martial art film star **Bruce Lee** ("Enter The Dragon") in the art of Jeet Kune Do. You probably haven't heard of this strange fighting art, but nearly every karate magazine devotes dozens of pages to it. It isn't really an ancient art in itself, like Kenpo or Kung Fu — instead, this Jeet Kune Do is sort of a "greatest hits" method of all the best parts of *all* the martial arts. Bruce and Dan and Paul have been copied (mostly unsuccessfully) by thousands of "wannabe" martial art experts. Yet only Paul "walks the walk" of a true seasoned street-fighter, and is absolutely *idolized* by the "karate crowd" for his warrior life-style.

Paul — who is the internationally-acknowledged master of Jeet Kune Do, and considered the man who went on where the more famous **Bruce Lee** left off — had *only one rule* when choosing the moves he would incorporate into his "simplified" hand-to-hand system:

It Had To Work 100% Of The Time In Actual Street Fights... Where There Are No Rules!

Paul has proved, over and over again with his own blood (and life) on the line, that his basic system can help anyone defeat even the most brutal, huge and insane street fighter in hand-to-hand combat.

It's not a game to Paul. It's not a game for the soldiers and cops who have to use his system to save their lives. And it won't be a game for you, once you've seen for yourself how easily you can incorporate this amazing system into your own life.

Listen: In spite of his efficiency at fighting, Paul Vunak is one of the most compassionate men I've ever met. And he absolutely agrees with me that it's a crime so many good people are walking around afraid in their own neighborhoods — afraid of being attacked, afraid that their girlfriends or wives and kids will be assaulted, or kidnapped, or worse. Paul has a lot of people close to him; he knows what it's like to fear for the safety of loved ones.

That's why he has volunteered to bring his basic fighting system to the public. You should know that he is taking an *enormous risk* in doing this — his job with the Navy **SEALS** is important to him...

But Paul doesn't care. He knows his simplified system will absolutely mean the difference between life and death for a lot of people who need it — people, like you...

Who Still Remember When A Civilized Man Was Responsible For His Own Safety!

Paul has just one serious request. He wants every precaution taken to keep this important fighting system out of the hands of felons and "suspicious" types. And that's my job — that's

why I'm being almost overly-paranoid about who I let see this stuff. As much as is humanly possible, I intend to keep this away from the criminals out there... while at the same time giving the advantages this system offers to as many of the "good" people as I can reach. But, honestly, I don't know how long I will be allowed to offer Paul's system.

I Don't Want Any More "Good Guys" Hurt Because They Didn't Have Any Of These Simple Street Fighting Skills!

At first we were planning to go from city to city doing seminars, spreading a slow wake of confidence among people as we traveled. But that would take too long, and in the end we still wouldn't reach everyone who needs this crucial survival information. No — we had to find a way to get this stuff into the hands of every deserving person *as quickly as we could.*

What we did was, I think, brilliant. We decided to *video-tape* an entire "teaching course" with Paul, and get it to a pre-selected number of people through the mail, all at once. Believe me, this is no ordinary video — instead, it's a genuine **breakthrough** in training technique... even better than what many of the cops and soldiers got during their own initial training!

Here's what you get: Paul Vunak went into a San Diego film studio for a week and allowed us to produce the most incredible video package you've ever seen. We were able to take that week's worth of shooting and "distill" it down to just *one* video — that's how simple Paul's system is. This single video is all you'll need to be able to learn (and master) his entire basic "simplified" hand-to-hand street fighting system!

This is the most intense and enlightening hour you'll spend in front of a T.V.! We spent months of preparation for the shoot, and spent about ten times more money in production than we'd planned on — but we're not complaining. This video surpasses all of our wildest dreams. You see, we've all seen about a thousand of the *other* videos out there — you can pick up any martial art magazine and see twenty ads a month for the latest fad among karate "experts". But they're all a huge waste of time, shot with "Uncle Ernie's" hand-held camcorder and without a second thought given to **teaching** you anything. All you get is a long, boring home video of a guy showing off his air punches and spinning kicks, or of some weird seminar where you had to *be there* to get anything of value.

We went the *other* way — using **3 cameras** on Paul and the action at all times. So you get the *best* shot to see what's happening, then get it again from a different angle... and then get it *again* in slow motion, with everything described and broken down into it's simplest and most easily-learned form.

The way we shot this video...
You Might As Well Be In The Same Room With Paul, Getting "Inside" Advice And A Dissection Of Moves Most Soldiers Never See During Training!

Paul has absolutely dedicated himself to teaching you *everything* you need to know...

and to do it so you can come away from your first viewing with enough powerful know-how and new skills to increase your naturally fighting ability by 200%... instantly! This is the equivalent of having 8 personal, super-intense lessons all recorded just for you... by the most *respected* hand-to-hand fighter on the planet!

Even better, Paul took the time to show you clear (and exciting) **real-life examples** of how to handle situations in a crowded bar, in a recreation

possesses this amazing rock-hard weapon!)

*** Why hitting anyone with your fist is silly (even trained boxers bust knuckles that way)... and how to use the 8 "natural weapons" of your body to deliver 5 times the power of a fist with half the risk of injuring yourself!**

*** When to use the most simple strike you'll ever learn... an unstoppable natural move so effective in ending fights that it's not allowed**

"...the SEALS love Paul's system. It incorporates real-life fighting tools no other system has; yet it can be mastered in an astonishingly short time."

room, and in the street. These "extra" situational learning tools remove any doubt you may have as to how to use your new skill in the real world.

→ **You'll learn** how to handle two attackers at once — with a one-two natural him-to-him-back-to-him-and-out of danger move that allows your body to act the way it *naturally* wants to.

→ **You'll learn** the difference between easily-applied "shock" moves, which set up an attacker for you to finish off when you choose to, and even-simpler "clincher" moves — the ones that will *instantly* end any fight the second you deliver them.

→ **You'll learn** exactly why the "joint manipulation" and difficult kicks of most martial arts don't work in real life situations — and why, once you know the simple moves of instantly ending a fight anyway, you don't even *need* to know anything else! (A veteran cop once told me how sad it always is to see the rookies fresh out of the academy try to use their fancy karate moves on a drug-crazed maniac or a drunk bully — only to get their heads cracked open while the criminal gets away, laughing. That's why the veteran is so happy he learned the **real** way to end any fight from Paul.)

And, of course, you'll also learn the main secret of this system's popularity with professional soldiers: it's easily learned, easily remembered, and most importantly, *easily used*.

Here's what else you'll discover in this amazing video:

*** The single most important move you can make in any altercation — it's what your body *wants* to do, but what *most* people panic about and refuse to allow themselves to do! (Yet it will save your life!)**

*** How to use a simple "cat-like" move to instantly position yourself to deliver the easiest knock-out blow imaginable — a strike so natural your grandmother could pull it off against Mike Tyson!**

*** How to instantly "shut down" an attacker's testosterone levels, using your body's own built-in "brick". (Even a 90 lb. woman**

in full-contact karate tournaments! (Instant disqualification — it's also a move that 99% of the most brutal street fighters you'll ever encounter have **never seen before... and don't know how to defend against!**)

*** How to use the "hip-swinging secret" soldiers use to drop opponents instantly — no speed or strength required, yet it's like driving a 160 lb. bar of lead into the bad guy's belly! (It's so effective, you don't even have to come close to hitting your "target" area... even the sloppiest attempt by you will bring him to his knees!)**

*** How to effortlessly "parlay" the same natural force that has ended more professional football players careers than any other... it's a human's weakest point during a fight (or before a fight begins), and once you know about it you've just increased your ability to defeat a larger man by 200%!**

*** How to use a super-effective, completely unexpected technique straight out of the "Three Stooges" to cause any attacker to automatically (1) back up, (2) raise his hands in defense, and (3) blink rapidly... all of which *instantaneously* reverses the tables and makes your attacker suddenly vulnerable to a fight-ending blow you can deliver in your own sweet time.**

*** Why all elite soldiers are given "permission" to use the one street fighter's Secret Weapon we are all taught from kindergarten *not* to use... and how you *can* use it to quickly remove yourself from any situation where you have been surprised from behind!**

*** How to use the *other* "dirty" street-fighting tool not allowed in any civilized boxing or karate match... because of it's immediate ability to disorientate and topple your opponent! (It *also* works when you do it incorrectly!)**

And more! Don't let the idea that a system with "only" 8 basic moves must be too simple to work, either — this isn't theory, this is the result of a lifetime of experimentation in blood! Everything Paul teaches you was perfected either in the street, or on the battlefield... where

it had to work, or good men would die.

Listen to what these experts have to say: "There's no flare, no garbage, no ceremonial nonsense, no magic. Paul can spend 15 minutes with anyone and make you twice the fighter you were before!" — **Shane Brott**, Black Belt Martial Arts Instructor

"Finally, after 23 years of karate and other martial art styles (including military training), I found a system that works in the real world! Paul, where were you 20 years ago?" — **Paul Iwamoto**, Chicago

"Thanks for a video that the ordinary person who works for a living can actually learn from! I am passing these simple and effective tools along to my wife and children." — **Rick Manente**, Los Angeles

"Street Safe is the most effective self defense system I have ever come across." — **CA Narcotics Task Force Commander**, (Name withheld due to security regulations.)

"This (Street Safe) will probably turn the Martial Arts community on its ear... **BRAVO Paul!**" — **Jim Hinesly**, SWAT Team Member, Hostage Negotiator, and member of Sheriff's Tactical Team.

Actual SEAL team members are not allowed (by strict Navy regulations) to comment, but in private conversations with me they have said that Paul Vunak's training system has provided them with the most realistic training they've ever had, going back 20 years!

"Paul has one advantage nobody else has — actual experience in street fighting. Having been in it, he can teach you how to not only survive, but win, even if you aren't experienced in the street." — **Rich Chen**, Hawaiian ex-street-fighter

"Listen: Any citizen who leaves the safety of themselves or their family in the hands of any organization, **including** your local police department, is in for trouble! We all need to take responsibility for our own well being. I feel this video tape will give anybody who watches it immediate tools in self-defense principles that will make you confident. And anyone from the age of 13 to 80 can use these tools!" — **Sgt. Carlos Hernandez**, South Florida Police Tactics Instructor

That last quote sure puts things in perspective, doesn't it? That's a police officer talking — telling you the days of relying on your local cops for protection are long gone!

Let me tell you something you already know in your heart...

As A Man, It's More Important Than Ever Before To Know How To Defend Yourself!

And, when your family and loved ones are at risk, you need to know how to take out aggressors with **absolute certainty**. Watching Sly Stallone and John Wayne deliver movie-magic roundhouse punches doesn't cut it.

You have a **duty**, as a man, to protect your-

self and loved ones *like* a man. And no amount of philosophical nonsense is ever going to change that fact.

You've seen the headlines — rape is up, assault and murder doesn't even make the front page anymore, and robbers are shooting people even **after** they give up their watches and money (it's a trend the police call "Thrill Killing"). Heck, there are jerks hurting people without *any reason at all!* The rules are gone. You could be attacked inside your home, in the back aisles of a supermarket or theater, waiting in your car at a light, anywhere, anytime, by a growing mob of remorseless scum who *enjoy* demolishing innocent people's health and lives.

But they aren't going to enjoy coming up on you, friend. Not anymore.

It's Time To Stop Being A Victim, And Learn To Walk Your Streets With Confidence!

Look, I know you don't want to turn into some hardened, mean-eyed killer. That's not what Paul's video is about. But do not doubt that the newfound confidence this information gives you will "leak" into every area of your life. I've seen it happen a thousand times...

- ◆ You'll "carry" yourself in a new way that just says "Don't mess with this guy."
- ◆ People will be extremely pleased to see you smile and be nice to them... and will go far out of their way to be extra nice to you, automatically.
- ◆ Have you ever seen how people treat a man like Sean Connery or Joe Montana when they enter a room? It's not just that they're good-looking... more, it's that these men *reek* of confidence and the lack of fear. You can have that, too.
- ◆ Plus, it has to be mentioned: There's an undeniable *sexual attractiveness* to any man who knows how to look the world in the eye and not flinch. You can't fake it—it's a primal, animal part of us, and when it's there

it shines like a searchlight in your eyes.

Now, let's be straight about something here: This is not a magic potion you take to become invulnerable. Use this system only at your own risk, and take responsibility all the way down the line for your actions. You can understand why I have to tell you this — we've gone to an enormous amount of trouble and risk to bring this material to you. We're not talking about playing games here; this is real life. Used correctly, Paul's basic system is without doubt your best first-line defense in a tight spot. You'll be able to "parlay" your learning into a few simple moves that will take down a man twice your size, even as he's assaulting you — and even if he has 10 years of martial arts experience, or a lifetime of street-fighting under his belt! This stuff is that effective.

But it's not fool-proof. Don't be a fool, and for God's sake don't go looking for trouble. That's not what this video is about.

That said, you should know that you will take **absolutely no financial risk** in ordering this video! It could not be simpler for you to get this video, watch it at your leisure, and decide in your own sweet time whether it's everything we have told you it is. In fact, you get an almost ridiculously-generous...

100% No-Questions-Asked Money-Back Guarantee!

If you aren't convinced, after owning this video for **3 entire months**, that it's the real thing, just send it back to us for a complete refund of your purchase price. You'll get no hassle from me or anyone else... in fact, I will *personally* make sure you are sent your refund by return mail. Heck, you don't even *need* a reason to send it back — I trust your judgement. Like I said, I'm just trying to get this info into the hands of as many "good guys" as I can... *while I can.*

Here's how to order: We've set up a special phone line for you — all you need to do is call **1-800-899-8153** and tell the person who answers you want the "Street Safe Code 53-X"

video package, and use your credit card. That's a toll-free call, and won't cost you a cent. Or, you can fill out the special Order Form below and mail it with your check to:

**Tactical Response Solutions
2945 S. Mooney Blvd. • Dept. 53-X
Visalia, CA 93277**

That's all there is to it — and when you use your special "code", your video will be *shipped out by return mail!* The price for this video is dirt-cheap, too — in fact, at just \$37 plus \$2 shipping and handling (total: \$39), it's **less** than you'd pay for *one lousy* personal lesson in most karate schools... where at *most* you'd learn how to bow and assume some silly stance that will fool no one!

This really *is* a great offer — because it's the real thing, because your life will change immediately for the better... and because you risk *nothing* by giving the video a "test run" on your own T.V. set.

Don't put this off — *remember, there's a very real and very serious chance this information won't be allowed out to the public for very long!* And if you don't order right away, you may never see this offer again, ever. Don't let that happen — you stand to lose *nothing*, and yet what you can **gain** is more important to living well in this world than *any* other skill you'll ever learn!

Sincerely,



R. L. Horine
President, T.R.S.

P.S. One thing — It's *very* important. I have a few copies here of a hot new special report, and I want to send it to you, absolutely **FREE**. It's called *Close Quarters Gun Disarmament*, and it's written by Randy Wanner, chief instructor at a national institute that *exclusively* teaches FBI, DEA, SWAT and other specialized units... but never civilians! In fact, **this report was never intended for civilian eyes** — Randy has only agreed to let me give this to carefully selected people who have been cleared to receive our *Street Safe* video.

The information in this hot report has **already saved the lives of officers on duty** — it's a revolutionary technique that allows you a 91% chance of disarming an assailant without getting shot... and with the increase in armed robbery in the U.S., *where people are shot even when they cooperate*, this report could absolutely save your life.

It's yours **FREE** when you get the video... and you can **KEEP** it even if you decide later to return the video package!

[**WARNING:** This is **NOT** the disarmament technique currently being taught by some horribly misinformed "experts" out there — *any* technique you see *advertised* for the public has **not** been cleared by the institute, and is *dangerously* ineffective! No matter what you do, please do **not** take advice from "experts" with no experience in real-life armed situations!]

For The Fastest Service Use Your Credit Card And Call Toll-FREE

1-800-899-8153 (Ask For Department 53-X)

Priority Order Form For **SOLDIER OF FORTUNE** Readers Only!

YES! I want to take advantage of this incredible opportunity while it's still available... I'm ready to take responsibility for my own safety and the safety of my family! I understand I have an overly-generous **3-Month No Questions Asked 100% Guarantee:** If after viewing this video for three months, I am unsatisfied for any reason at all, I can simply return it for a **full refund** of my purchase price. That means I can decide for myself if this really is the most amazing self-defense self-taught course ever created. It's a fabulous deal, and I don't risk a dime by ordering! So please, rush it to me by return mail!

→ By initialing this line, I am stating that I am over 18 years of age and that I have never been convicted of a felony. I also state that I will use the information contained in Street Safe in a defensive situation only. I accept sole responsibility for my actions as an adult.

I prefer to pay by credit card. Please charge my:
 Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover

Enclosed is my check (payable to TRS), for \$39.
Please rush my Street Safe video to:

CARD# _____

NAME _____

EXPIRES: _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____

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Tactical Response Solutions

Wet Silk & Silver Wings

Text & Photos by Alex McColl

“You can take the Marine out of Hollywood, but you can’t take Hollywood out of the Marine.” This admittedly irreverent thought crossed my mind as we watched several Marines doing fast Australian rappels down a 100-foot cliff in the grand finale of a noteworthy demonstration. This had been preceded by a

jump into the bay, Zodiac maneuvers, a beach landing, a 100-foot cliff ascent and the exhaustion of a fair amount of blank ammunition and pyrotechnics at the top. It was quite impressive.

These were not U.S. Marines; they

were members of the Royal Thai Marine Corps (RTMC) at Sattahip Bay, Thailand, and the above-mentioned “we” were participants in Friendship Airborne Tours Inc.’s June 1994 jump with the RTMC’s Recon Battalion. We were a mixed lot of about 50 people. Nearly half were Americans, mostly reserve-component U.S. Army Special Forces, USMC Recon, one SEAL and two men who were about to make their first jump. One of these, John Sadowski of Drasco, Arkansas, had been a sniper with the U.S. 8th Army in the Philippines campaign of 1944 and is now 66 years old. Most of the other half were Germans.

We formed up in two platoons. The “American” platoon included several Israelis: Colonel Yoram Presser, commander of the airlift center that includes their jump school, two Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) reserve officers and two officers from Singapore. The Germans were mostly reserve members of the German army, the *Bundeswehr*, but included three or four former members of the now extinct East German *Volksarmee*. *Bundeswehr*, *Volksarmee* and IDF all standing together in the same formation, facing the same way and later amiably hobnobbing together at the prop-blast party was more than a bit of a novelty. The whirring sound in the background was Heinrich Himmler turning over in his grave.

The morning prior to the demonstration had consisted of training in suspended harnesses (suspended agony), reviewing procedures for water jumps and a refresher trip off their 34-foot tower.

The last time I did a 34-foot tower was in the MACV/SOG jump school in 1968. The next day we went to Utapao Air Base, chuted up, organized into sticks, got on two Thai navy Fokker F-27 Friendship transports and walked in the sky over Sattahip Bay. It was my first official water jump; I enjoyed the soft landing.

The RTMC Recon Battalion clearly has a long-established, well-run airborne operation. We were awarded RTMC jump wings on the beach by the commandant of the RTMC, and at the prop-blast dinner (a fine occasion including Thai dancers and demonstrations of Thai kick-boxing) Presser presented IDF wings to the participants. Two sets of wings for one cushy, Hollywood-style water jump ain’t bad for a day’s work.

Whereas the Thai operation was a professional, well-organized event, our next jump in Cambodia was quite different. Dr. Frank Osanka, Friendship Airborne’s guiding light, had been told that the Cambodian army had an airborne platoon fully trained by one of the U.N. units in Cambodia on a peacekeeping effort, but that they had no parachutes. This was only half true. Not only were there no parachutes, there was no airborne platoon either.

Before Pol Pot’s take-over in 1975, Cambodia did indeed have a respectable airborne force, with French and

American training. But by June 1994, after the “killing fields” and the general lack of interest by the occupying Vietnamese, what passed as an airborne platoon was two Cambodian generals, Yem Phoeung and Phann Samnang, and two nurses, Nou Sa Em and Chann Kim Seng. They had all made their last jumps in 1975. What they lacked in youth and recent experience, however, was more than made up in eagerness once more to defy the demons of the upper air.

We had brought an



Superb organization and training provided by Thai RTMC Recon Battalion included practice jumps from 34-foot tower.



Friendship Airborne Tours Inc. provided the necessary training and equipment to ensure safe jumps in Cambodia, but Soviet-made Mi-17 (in background) is not the ideal airborne platform. Author standing on right.




Jumping from Thai navy Fokker F-27 Friendship transports into Sattahip Bay guaranteed a soft landing. RTMC used Zodiac boats to pick up jumpers and chutes. Photo: Steven Rambam

Continued on page 62

Front Line For Th

East Collides with West in South Lebanon Free-Fire Zone

by Jim Marks

A photograph showing a Merkava tank engulfed in flames. The tank is positioned in the foreground, with a large fire rising from its turret and engine area. The background is dark, suggesting a night or low-light environment. The fire is bright orange and yellow, with a thick plume of smoke rising from it. The tank's tracks and wheels are visible in the foreground, and the overall scene is one of destruction.

Merkava tank burns in Beirut in 1982 during Israeli invasion to root out Palestinian militias. The IDF's foray created a more determined resistance in the form of Islamic radicals, forcing them to withdraw behind a fortified line. Photo: SOLO

The underwing rocket pods attached to the Cobra gunship circling lazily were visible only through binoculars. From a kilometer away the business end of the aircraft looked fairly harmless — a sight that did not seem to bother a group of AK-toting Palestinian militiamen milling around a refugee camp in South Lebanon. These youths have

been raised on the buzz of distant choppers, and watching Israeli gunships in action is a fine spectator sport.

Three Cobras hovered over the coast trying to identify their targets: buildings in a neighboring refugee camp used by Palestinian guerrillas. Spotting our group, and perhaps mistaking my telephoto lens for something more deadly, the lead ship

suddenly detached itself from the formation and bowed courteously in our direction. Before we even saw the flash, we hit the dirt as a couple of 2.75-inch rockets impacted an adjacent building.

Although no one was hurt, furious Palestinians let rip with a hail of lead, as did Lebanese army infantrymen guarding the camp entrance. They

e Next War

know it's a pointless display — but it made everyone feel better. The choppers, thinking they'd hung around long enough, launched a couple of TOWs and peeled off to the Israeli border in a shower of IR decoy flares. They would be back at base in under 15 minutes, full of stories about their foray into "bandit country." The locals, Palestinians and Lebanese, went back to their coffee, backgammon and storytelling.

Everyone in South Lebanon has a chopper story to tell. Neither the Lebanese army nor guerrilla groups have any significant anti-air capability and as a result, choppers come up close. Many a Palestinian refugee can recount a time when, soaking up rays on his roof, he has come face to face with a Cobra pilot suddenly popping up to get a closer look at the installation that is that day's target — the offices of guerilla groups are in ordinary houses. The Israelis have plenty of agents on the ground to identify these targets but pilots still like to eyeball them personally — taking out the civilian family next door doesn't look good on their service records.

Luckily for the inhabitants, Israelis often issue a warning before hitting an area. Punitive strikes are not designed to hit guerrillas — they will be long gone. Instead, the Voice of the South radio station, run by Israel's militia ally, the South Lebanese Army (SLA), announces a list of villages that will be hit in "retaliation" for a guerrilla raid. After such warnings, only the old and stubborn stay in their homes. The Israelis often accompany their warnings by declaring any traffic fair game after a short grace period. The roads are lined with burnt

out Mercedes, smoked by prowling gunships.

Mid-Eastern Muddle

South Lebanon has been a war zone since the early 1970s when PLO guerrillas began to use it as a base of operations against Israel. Until 1982 PLO fighters rocketed Israeli settlements and towns near the border and infiltrated terrorist teams. The Israelis responded with air strikes, commando raids and ground incursions, culminating with the 1982 invasion by Israeli troops into Beirut itself. Syrian and Iranian backed militias



Most houses in the region are simply built of concrete slabs: RPGs, TOWs and small arms fire do no more damage than leave entry and exit holes. 155 HE rounds and 2,000-pound bombs, however, will change a village beyond recognition. Photo: Jim Marks

blasted the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) out of the country in a three-year campaign of suicide bombings, which tragically caught U.S. Marines off guard.

The term *South Lebanon* applies to an area south of the Awwali River bounded on the west by the ancient port cities of Tyre and Sidon and on the east by Mount Hermon, which straddles the Syrian-Lebanese border. Terrain is rugged, consisting of steep-sided wadis and scattered villages connected to the region's towns by a few narrow, winding roads.

While Tyre and Sidon are bustling towns, the population of the hinter-

land eke out a living growing olives and oranges in rocky soil. The majority of the population remain poor. This region, populated largely by *Shi'ite* Muslims, has always been economically and politically marginal.

By June 1985 the IDF had withdrawn from most of South Lebanon but left its proxy militia, the SLA, under Lebanese General Antoine Lahd, in control of an 850 square-kilometer security zone stretching along the border, with a salient incorporating Jezzine.

De-Facto Forces

The SLA controls about eight percent of Lebanese territory. Not recognized by the international community, the U.N. labels it the "De-Facto Forces" and calls the security zone the "Israeli-controlled area." With about 2,500 soldiers the SLA is led by Christians, but many of its men are Shi'ites recruited from within the zone. It is deployed in a string of hill-top compounds paralleling the Israeli border with platoon-strength positions equipped with machine guns, medium mortars and ground surveillance radar. Most also have a T-55 attached for direct fire support.

The SLA is backed up by nearly 1,000 IDF soldiers who reinforce the compounds when necessary. Although the SLA puts out night reconnaissance patrols, more demanding operations such as ambushes are performed by IDF infantry and armor

units. Even though its special forces are top-notch — demonstrated by their frequent forays into Lebanon to hit or to snatch *Hezbollah* leaders — the IDF, despite its fearsome reputation, is not as efficient as most Western armies. Paranoid about taking losses, section-strength ambush patrols will often be accompanied by a Merkava tank — sacrificing concealment for firepower.

Just as America did in Vietnam, the IDF and SLA rely on firepower rather than small unit tactics. Immediate support is provided by IDF artillery and gunships. Israeli fighter and ground-attack aircraft take a little



With unchallenged air superiority in South Lebanon, Israel uses gunships, like this Cobra AH-1G firing 2.75-inch rockets, to great effect. Everyone in South Lebanon has a chopper story to tell. Photo: courtesy DoD

longer to arrive and are generally used for pre-planned strike missions. These missions are ongoing but rarely make international headlines. On 2 June a combined air force/army aviation strike force hit a Hezbollah training camp near Baalbek, killing some 32 trainees. The bombing of Jewish targets in Argentina and England in late July were likely Hezbollah's retaliation for this raid and prompted further Israeli action in August. The IDF ended up apologizing for one of these raids, admitting that its pilots had hit the wrong building.

Despite their overwhelming firepower, SLA and IDF troops fear the South Lebanese bandit country. Villages in the security zone are subject to nightly curfews and most nights are disturbed by artillery and small arms fire as jumpy sentries sound the alarm. The SLA has benefited from formal Israeli military training but remains an undisciplined militia. Benefits of membership, namely a regular salary and an opportunity for family members to work in Israel, are no longer sufficient and Gen. Lahd has resorted to press-ganging recruits.

The SLA is supported by the General Security Service (GSS), a Lebanese-staffed intelligence organization under the supervision of Israel's internal security service, *Shin Bet*. Having operated in the region for over 20 years enjoying unchallenged air supremacy, Israeli forces have built up

a detailed intelligence picture of South Lebanon. The GSS keeps this picture up-to-date and is also responsible for taking prisoners to the prison camp at El-Khiam. This notorious camp is regularly stocked with "terrorist" suspects as well as Lebanese civilians taken hostage to ensure the good behavior of their families and villages.

The Syrian Factor

Syria does not deploy any of the 35,000 troops it has in Lebanon south of the Awwali River line. This is the result of an informal Israeli-Syrian compromise in effect since 1976 under which Israel does not interfere with Syrian deployments in Lebanon so long as Syrian troops do not deploy in the South, and Israeli air supremacy is not challenged.

Syria nonetheless maintains indirect influence in the South in two respects. First, its control over the rest of the country means that it sits astride the supply lines of militias such as

Hezbollah. Syria can influence the level of militia operations by tightening or loosening its controls.

Second, Syrian intelligence maintains a covert presence in the South.

Syrian policy in Lebanon is largely under the control of the most powerful of Syria's many intelligence agencies. Its director in Lebanon, Ghazi Kanaan, maintains a covert presence throughout the country by infiltrating tens of thousands of Syrian migrant workers who flood Lebanon every year. Many of these, such as itinerant fruit or bread sellers, travel through the South.

Palestinians Divided

Palestinians in South Lebanon are a divided and isolated force. Concentrated in the camps of Ain al-Hilwe and Mieh Mieh around Sidon and Rashadiyah; Buss and Burj al-Shemali camps around Tyre, the approximately 158,000 refugees are not permitted to work outside their camps by Lebanese authorities. Frustrated and embittered, these Palestinians reject the Arafat-led peace process which offers them nothing. Lebanese army soldiers control the entrances to all camps and the fighters' heavy weapons have been confiscated.

Much of the residents' time is taken up with factional fighting. The



During attacks, Israelis often declare all traffic fair game — gunships prowl the streets for targets. Attack helicopters were also used to assassinate Hezbollah leader in 1992. Photo: Jim Marks

Syrian-backed factions such as Abu Musa and Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command (PFLP-GC) have been unable to gain a foothold in these camps. *Fatah* remains the dominant faction, although George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Nayif Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Islamic fundamentalist *Hamas* all have supporters.

Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) was established in Ain al-Hilwe, but has been weakened after a series of assassinations and counter-assassinations between Fatah and FRC loyalists. Within the camps an atmosphere of intense suspicion abounds and young gunmen from various factions and rival leaders within factions control the streets. Despite their bitterness against Israel, the Palestinians in the South are too weak to carry out more than an occasional raid against the security zone.

Amal was founded in 1975 by the Imam Musa al-Sadr as the military wing of his Movement of the Oppressed. Musa al-Sadr was an Iranian-born religious leader who wanted to mobilize the Lebanese Shi'ite community. He disappeared in Libya in 1978 and the less fanatical Nabih Berri took over. After 1982, *Amal* led paramilitary operations against the IDF but recently has reduced military operations since it wants to avoid provoking retaliations. *Amal* now generally mounts operations against the SLA only when Israeli operations cause heavy civilian casualties.

Khomeini Connection

Hezbollah was formed in the aftermath of Israel's 1982 invasion when several radical Shi'ite groups united with Iranian help. Hezbollah is loyal to the memory of Ayatollah Khomeini and calls for the establishment of an Iranian-style Islamic republic in Lebanon, and the liberation of Palestine. It also opposes Western intervention in the region and groups operating under its umbrella were responsible for most of the kidnappings of Westerners that plagued Beirut in the mid-1980s.

The movement draws its support mainly from the Shi'ite population of the Bekaa Valley and the shanty-

towns of Shi'ite refugees from the south which encircle southern Beirut. Until recently its military headquarters was at Baalbek, where between 800 and 2,000 Iranian Revolutionary Guards were quartered in the Sheikh Abdullah barracks overlooking the town.

The Iranian link is still strong and provides funds enabling Hezbollah to pay its fighters generously. However, changes in Iranian and Syrian policy have led to fractures in the movement.

In Iran the "pragmatists" under President Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani increased their hold on power over the last year, at the expense of those leaders who adhere strictly to Khomeini's ideal of permanent revolution. It was the latter who established the link with Hezbollah and sought to use it to export their revolution into the Arab world. Rafsanjani is more interested in opening the crippled Iranian economy to Western investors than exporting revolution and has been reducing Iranian support for the group and withdrawing the Revolutionary Guards.

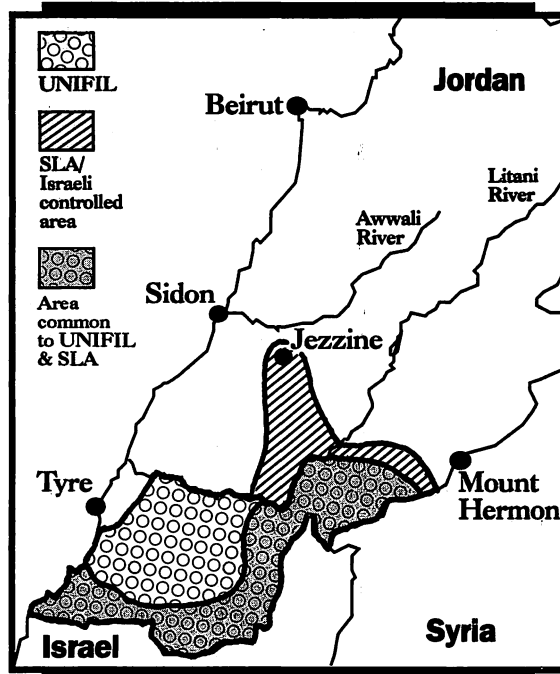
In addition to a cooling of Iranian enthusiasm, Syria's relations with the movement have become more ambivalent. Syria permits Hezbollah to attack the IDF in South Lebanon as a negotiating tactic in the peace talks. At the same time, Syria wants to limit Hezbollah's influence to avoid a spillover of Islamic fundamentalism.

These conflicting pressures have led to splits inside Hezbollah. Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the party since Abbas Musawi was assassinated by Israeli helicopter gunships in February 1992, is trying to get the party to play a bigger political role inside Lebanon but is opposed by his more radical followers.

The party's military wing, Islamic Resistance, led by Sheikh Subhi Tufayli, is beginning to feel betrayed by its erstwhile sponsors in Tehran and has responded to Nasrallah's moves by reiterating its call for armed resistance to Israel and the establishment of an Islamic republic in Leba-

non. Its increasingly sophisticated operations continue to cause losses among the IDF and SLA. This indicates that Iran and Syria are still providing some military assistance and training.

Suicide bombings, the hallmark of resistance in the mid-1980s, are no longer used. Most operations involve harassing Israeli or SLA posts with machine guns, mortars or indirect rocket fire. Road-Side-Bombs (RSBs) have caused the most damage. They are planted at night inside the security zone and detonated by remote control. Although SLA/IDF patrols clear the roads every morning,



In South Lebanon, an area south of Awwali River extending to Mount Hermon, the Israeli-controlled area is manned by the SLA and overlaps portions of UNIFIL zone. Map: Kristine Anderson

Hezbollah operatives have been quite successful in avoiding detection and destroying Israeli soft transport. They have been aided by agents within the SLA, but recent Shin Bet and GSS security crackdowns have led to purges in the ranks. As a result, Hezbollah has been unable to mount any RSB attacks since June.

Instead, Hezbollah has begun to use Sagger antitank missiles and SA-7 surface to air missiles. Sagers were responsible for the group's most dramatic recent success when, on the very day that King Hussein shook hands with Prime Minister Rabin in

Continued on page 60

IF LOOKS COULD KILL

If looks could kill, dead bodies would be stacked around the Thunder Five like cordwood. Unfortunately, the equation involves far more than appearance. However, this is, without doubt, the ugliest revolver I have ever laid eyes on. Its grotesque proportions are also likely to awe and intimidate firearms novitiates. It does not frighten me.

Most startling of all is its massive and exceptionally long five-shot cylinder (3.2 inches), machined from round bar stock and designed to accommodate both 3-inch .410 gauge shotshells and the rimmed .45 Colt cartridge. This is supposed to broaden its horizons with regard to pest control — to include snakes, rodents and two-legged vermin. The cylinder is not fluted and the chambers have no shoulders (a lighter weight fluted cylinder is now available). The extractor star's throw is less than 0.2 inches and thus the empty cases must be extracted by hand, one at a time. The cylinder is locked in place at both the front and rear. It can be swung open by pressing forward on a spring-loaded, serrated latch around the extractor rod inside the barrel shroud. Cylinder rotation is clockwise, in the Colt manner. The headspace to the barrel (cylinder

KILL

Text & Photos
by Peter G. Kokalis

Many Calibers, Few Uses for MIL's Thunder Five

gap) on our test specimen was .011 inches, which is appropriate if cast bullets or lead-alloy slugs will be fired.

The frame, barrel, fixed sights and

extractor-rod shroud are all investment cast as a single component from 4140 heat-treated, chrome-moly steel. There is no evidence of any mill finishing. This unit and the other small parts (with the exception of the extractor rod and cylinder that carry a black oxide finish) have a military-style, gray phosphate ("Parkerized") finish. The grip frame/trigger guard are cast as a separate unit and pinned and screwed to the main frame. All of the springs are made from stress-relieved music wire. The front sight blade and open, square-notch rear sight have a radius of 3.25 inches. The sights are supposedly regulated to shoot to point-of-aim at 30 feet with 255-grain .45 Colt ammunition.

Barrel length is only 2.15 inches. The eight-groove barrel has a right-hand twist of one turn in 18 inches. Standard rate of twist for the .45 Colt cartridge is 1:16-inch.

Overall length of the Thunder Five is 9 inches. It weighs a ton. Actually it weighs 3 pounds, even with two lightning ovals in the frame's top strap and one in the underside of the frame. Together with the Pachmayr neoprene grips, this moderates the recoil of the .45-70 rifle cartridge which, after another cylinder has been installed, can also



Although massive and intimidating in appearance, the Thunder Five cannot be recommended for self-defense. Its only legitimate justification seems to be as a camp gun.

be fired in this immense revolver. However, neoprene grip panels should never be installed on a handgun intended for serious social purposes. Their texture is too "gummy" to permit the shooter to readjust his grip on the weapon during the drawstroke, should this be required.

Switch-Caliber Capability

Sub-caliber chamber inserts (made from 4140 rotary hammer-forged barrel stock) are also available for the .410 gauge/.45 Colt cylinder, and they further broaden the range of cartridges that can be fired in the Thunder Five. These inserts can be had for \$29.95 each in the following calibers: .38 Special/.357 Magnum, 9mm Parabellum, .38 Super, .30 M1 Carbine, .380 ACP, .32 H&R Magnum (and thus also .32 Long and Short Colt and .32 Long and Short S&W), .30 Mauser (7.63mm Mauser), .30 Luger, .22 Hornet, .22 LR rimfire and .22 Magnum rimfire.

All of these inserts are rifled with the appropriate rate of twist, and since the calibers are all well under .45, the revolver's barrel becomes nothing more than a freebore extension when they are used. In theory, five different sub-caliber inserts could be installed in the cylinder's five chambers. While this would certainly confuse the operator, just think how much this might confound and terrorize his adversary.

Some of these cartridges are more useful than others. There is no handgun cartridge with a more fascinating, albeit somewhat complex history than the .45 Colt. When the Model 1873, the revolver for which this cartridge was chambered, was first introduced, the ammunition had thin copper cases with inside central cup-anvil priming based on Colonel S.V. Benét's 1868 Frankford Arsenal design. When unfired, these cartridges appear to be of rimfire type. A peculiar double crimp just below the case head held the internal cup-anvil in place. This system was subsequently changed to a conventional Boxer-primed centerfire brass case.

The original propellant charge was

40 grains of FFg black powder behind a 255-grain inside-lubricated lead bullet traveling at 815 fps. It was the most potent handgun cartridge of its day and did great execution on both sides of the line. It is still a very fine cartridge, with great wound ballistics potential, especially so with modern expanding bullets.

The bullet most commonly associated with this caliber is a 255-grain, lead-alloy, roundnose bullet with a flat tip. Current factory loadings drive this bullet at about 840 fps from a



The Thunder Five's massive five-shot cylinder is not fluted and the chambers have no shoulder. Note half-inch-wide trigger, manual safety lever and hammer's distinctive oval-shaped cutout.

5.5-inch barrel. Factory ammunition conforms to SAAMI specifications, which stipulate a maximum average chamber pressure of 15,900 CUP (Copper Units of Pressure) and a maximum permissible individual pressure of 18,300 CUP. This is to preclude damage to older revolvers, although the Thunder Five should safely withstand up to 25,000 CUP. However, we don't need either high pressures or high velocities to make this or any other handgun round effective. We need no more than properly designed expanding bullets driven at moderate velocities.

Hornady's 250-grain HP/XTP (Hollow Point/Extreme Terminal Performance), 0.452-inch diameter bullet (catalog No. 45200) provides a really effective expanding projectile for the .45 Colt cartridge. This bullet has a truncated cone shape with a pronounced crimping cannellure and a moderately deep cavity. The tip of the copper-alloy jacket is serrated.

When driven at velocities of about 850 fps and somewhat greater, its performance in soft tissue is excellent. It will expand to about .68 caliber with the jacket peeling back in six segments and leaving 12 sharp points around the expanded circumference to cut through soft tissue. There is no fragmentation and this bullet will penetrate about 16 inches of soft tissue. Charge weights of 10 grains or less of Hercules Unique flake-type powder will generate the desired results. However, at 7 yards, expect no better groups than 6 inches with the Thunder Five, with most of the bullets keyholing. That's not good enough for me.

Ill-Advised Options

From here on it's mostly downhill, in my opinion, with regard to the myriad of other rounds you can shoot in the Thunder Five. With only two exceptions, the sub-caliber inserts for the Thunder Five are ill-advised.

The .38 Special cartridge finds its most suitable envelope in small, easily concealed snubnose belly guns.

Capable of great accuracy and a fine small game cartridge, the .357 Magnum round is best suited for long-barreled wheel guns. There are at least two dozen semiautomatic pistols chambered for the rimless 9mm Parabellum cartridge that will provide better hit probability in a gunfight than the Thunder Five. The .38 Super found favor with only one notable armed professional that I know of — Texas Ranger Frank Hammer, who led the chase against Bonnie and Clyde. The .30 M1 Carbine round belongs in either a Ruger single-action revolver or the .30 M1 Carbine. Stuffing .380 ACP cartridges into the 3-pound Thunder Five is a poor joke as its mediocre wound ballistics potential can be justified only in a concealment pistol weighing no more than a pound. Developed for five-shot H&R revolvers and introduced in 1984, the .32 H&R Magnum cartridge has never become popular. Only Fed-

eral supplies ammunition in this caliber.

Providing a sub-caliber chamber insert for the Thunder Five in .32 is as mystifying a decision as some of the other arcane rounds selected. Why, for instance, two 19th century

center to hold the unit in place.

Most useless of all, in my opinion, is the caliber .45-70 cylinder. The 2.15-inch barrel's 1:18-inch twist will just barely stabilize 250-grain .45-caliber bullets. Only older .45-70 smokeless cartridges — intended for

diameter circle. Nice distribution, but No. 4 pellets have a diameter of only .13 caliber with very shallow penetration in soft tissue. Two-inch .410 gauge 000 buckshot loads contain three .36 caliber round pellets. Their pattern on the torso area of a target at 7 yards is erratic. Because of the Thunder Five's short barrel their velocity is quite low and they provide mediocre penetration in soft tissue. Your chances of striking the body's vital structures are slim and principally a matter of luck. Whenever possible, luck should be reduced to a negligible factor in any gunfight.

Sub-Caliber Performance

The Thunder Five has several other idiosyncrasies that I do not care for. Many modern revolvers are equipped with a transfer bar safety. I guess that's something we have to accept as a condescension to a lawsuit-crazed society. Mounted in the frame, the Thunder Five's floating firing pin must be struck by a transfer bar, which in turn receives the hammer's hit. Should the finger relieve pressure on the trigger while the hammer is falling forward, the transfer bar will drop down and the firing pin will not be driven forward.

In spite of the above, the Thunder Five also has a most peculiar ambidextrous manual safety located where the cylinder release is found on most revolvers with swing-out cylinders. When the safety lever is rotated upward, a red dot and the letter "F" are exposed (on the left side of the frame only) and a flat surface on the lever's axis shaft permits the hammer to rotate forward enough to strike the transfer bar. In this position, the revolver can be fired either double- or single-action.

Because of its massive steel cylinder (about a pound and a quarter), the double-action trigger pull weight on *Soldier Of Fortune's* test specimen was 14.5 pounds. When the hammer is manually cocked and the revolver is fired single-action, the trigger pull weight is only 2.5 pounds.

When the safety lever is rotated downward, the letter "S" is exposed. The flat surface on the lever's axis shaft now faces forward. This permits the transfer bar to move back away from the firing pin; and prevents the hammer from rolling forward enough to strike the transfer bar.



An almost confusing array of calibers can be adapted to the Thunder Five. From left to right: .22 LR, .32 H&R Magnum and .357 Magnum/.38 Special sub-caliber chamber inserts and caliber .45-70 interchangeable cylinder assembly.

rimless bottlenecked cartridges, such as the .30 (7.63x25mm) Mauser and .30 (7.65x21mm) Luger rounds? Neither have ever been very popular in the United States, and when loaded with the usual light (83 and 93 grains, respectively) FMJ bullets both perform poorly with horrendous overpenetration. They are both flat shooting and can reach out at ranges well beyond the potential of the Thunder Five's crude fixed sights. Even more bizarre is a chamber insert for the .22 Hornet. This high-velocity varmint round can provide superb accuracy out to 150 yards — in bolt-action rifles with barrel lengths that will enable the propellant charge to burn completely — something that will not occur in the Thunder Five's 2.15-inch barrel.

If the Thunder Five is projected as a "camp gun," then the .22 LR and .22 Magnum rimfire chamber inserts may make some sense. Each one is equipped with its own firing pin assembly: a machined steel cylinder that fits into the chamber end of the insert after the cartridge has been dropped in, with a rimfire firing pin on one end and a rubber O-ring in the

the Trapdoor Springfield rifle — should be fired in the Thunder Five. Their 405-grain projectiles cannot be stabilized by this slow twist and short barrel length. They yaw substantially in flight and keyhole upon impact with the target, starting at ranges of 7 yards. The accuracy is completely unacceptable and neither soft point nor hollow point bullets will expand when they strike sideways.

Justification for the 3.2-inch length of the cylinder is the ability to fire 2.5- and 3-inch .410 gauge shotshells in the original .45/.410 cylinder (which contains no marking to indicate it is any different from the caliber .45-70 cylinder). Sounds great, but is it?

When used for anything other than training youngsters or shooting sparrows, the .410 gauge places great demands on the shooter's skills. Furthermore, there is little difference in price between a box of 3-inch .410 shotshells and a box of 20- or 12-gauge shells. I would not trust .410 slug loads on anything larger than small game, such as coyotes. When fired through the Thunder Five, 3-inch shells filled with No. 4 shot will pattern fairly evenly over a 24-inch

After the lever has been rotated to the *safe* position, the trigger can be pulled once, either double- or single-action, although the round surface on the axis shaft will not permit the hammer to impinge against the transfer bar. At this time, after the trigger has been pulled, a bent on the hammer's lower front surface engages the flat edge of the axis shaft and prevents any further rotation of the hammer.

This is more than a little confusing and totally unnecessary. Millions of Colt and Smith & Wesson double-action revolvers have been produced without requiring a manual safety mechanism. The transfer bar safety is more than sufficient.

The Thunder Five trigger is smooth — as it should be for double-action work — but almost half an inch wide, which is twice the desired width. The front of the trigger guard is hooked, a useless fetish that I have commented on numerous times before. Placing the index finger of the support hand on the front of the trigger guard serves only to weaken the isometric pull of the support arm. The hammer is serrated on its cocking surface and has an oval-shaped cutout.

Self-Defense Monster

As expected, the popular gun press has waxed ecstatic over this revolver. *Guns* magazine has even referred to it as "The Awesome Thunder Five." Yet, no one in the circle in which I move would carry this monster for self-defense. In the drawer of a night stand? Possibly, but not in mine. It's too heavy and too clumsy to carry in a holster anyplace on the body for any appreciable length of time. It is unwieldy. It cannot be rapidly reloaded. Accuracy does not rise above mediocre in any of its myriad chamberings.

Is there any real justification for its existence, other than an intimidating appearance? I think as a camp gun it might serve to dispatch snakes at close range with bird-shot loads and, when stuffed with Hornady's 250-grain HP/XTP .45 Colt bullets, as a placebo to comfort those frightened of garbage-eating bears. But, overall there's too little thunder and not enough rain here to interest any real-life pistolero.

The Thunder Five is manufactured by MIL Inc. in Piney Flats, Tennessee. For further information con-

THUNDER FIVE REVOLVER SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:45 Colt/.410 gauge with optional caliber .45-70 interchangeable cylinder assembly and a large variety of sub-caliber chamber inserts.
Operation:	Double-action revolver with clockwise cylinder rotation; transfer bar safety and frame-mounted, ambidextrous manual safety levers.
Weight, empty:	3 pounds.
Barrel:	Integral with frame casting; eight-groove with a right-hand twist of one turn in 18 inches.
Barrel length:	2.15 inches.
Overall length:	9 inches.
Feed mechanism:	Five-shot cylinder.
Sights:	Integral with frame casting; blade-type front sight and open square-notch rear sight.
Furniture:	Pachmayr neoprene grip panels.
Suggested retail price:	\$599 for .410 gauge/.45 Colt model; caliber .45-70 interchangeable cylinder assembly, \$249.95; sub-caliber chamber inserts, \$29.95 each.
Finish:	Gray phosphate on all steel surfaces, except black oxide on cylinder and extractor assembly.
Manufacturer:	MIL Inc., Piney Flats, Tennessee.
Distributor:	Dragun Enterprises, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 2222, Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2222; phone: 800-467-7375, fax: 800-829-7536.
T&E summary:	Massive and heavy. Unwieldy. Barrel's twist and short length will not stabilize heavy .45 caliber bullets. Cannot be rapidly reloaded. Mediocre accuracy at best. Not recommended for self-defense. Possible utility as a camp gun.



With its 3.2-inch chamber, the Thunder Five can fire either 3- or 2.5-inch .410 gauge shotshells or .45 Colt cartridges. Note Pachmayr neoprene grips and unusual spring-loaded, serrated cylinder release latch around the extractor rod inside the barrel shroud.

tact the distributor, Dragun Enterprises (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 2222, Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2222; phone: 800-467-7375, fax: 800-829-7536). The manufacturer's suggested retail price for the .410 gauge/.45 Colt

Thunder Five is \$599, complete with a padded plastic storage box. A caliber .45-70 interchangeable cylinder assembly costs \$249.95. A variety of nylon and leather holsters are also available. ✕

COLD WEATHER COMMANDOS

by Mark H. Milstein

Photos by I. Pakavic

Sergeant Stipe Bankovic inches his way up a rocky hillside north of Gospic, Croatia, with men of the Puma Brigade fanned out on both flanks.

Recon reports Serb forces hold a strategic ridge 300 meters above on their right flank. From there, Serb gunners have been able to choke traffic flowing down the road from Ogulin. The Puma objective: Wrestle

back the ridge and help push Serb forces from Croatian territory.

When the winter offensive begins for real, Serbs will have no problem picking the Pumas off with sniper fire if they don't make the snow and weather work for them. "You must blend into the ground," Bankovic tells them. "You have to let the ground-fog and snow let you get within killing distance."

The winter offensive of 1994/95, when it comes, will be the third such

Croatian interior policeman (MUP) stands guard in the snow with his 7.62x51mm folding-stocked FAL. Early on, Croat agents gleaming the world for weapons procured considerable quantities of Argentine-made folding-stocked FALs.

march into the meat grinder for the Croats. Since the 1991 war of independence — when the Serb-dominated Yugoslav National Army seized nearly one-third of Croatia's territory — the Croats have not been able to mount an effective effort to regain lost ground, and Serb positions come within 12 miles of literally cutting Croatia into two parts.

Last winter's offensive saw a disorganized Croatian army make two probes into well-defended Serb lines, only to be repelled and then accused by the United Nations of taking part in a civilian massacre at Medak.



MUP trainees stand in snow by 12-round variant of Yugo Plaman 128mm multiple rocket launcher. When winter offensive comes, it will be cold, wet, bitter: At least these gunners don't have to fire their weapons from the prone.

This time things will be different. This time, according to Bankovic, specialists are being trained. This time the Serbs will be pushed back over the mountains, out of Croatia, and into neighboring Bosnia. He claims he's aware the United Nations recently decided to lift the air embargo against Serbia. That means nothing but trouble for his men. It means that Croatia must recapture its land before the Serbs can rearm.

"With the air embargo lifted," Bankovic explains, "the Serbs will again be able to buy weapons and fly them into Belgrade. It will be only months before they are used on us."

With assault exercises complete, Bankovic's men gear up for a winter survival skills lesson. The Pumas, along with members of the Croatian army Fifth Brigade, will learn to move in the thick snow that in winter covers much of the area surrounding Pljesivica National Park, now occupied by Serb forces from Knin.

It is there, says Bankovic, his troops will get their first taste of the cold. Plans call for specially trained units, such as the Pumas, to probe Serb-held Croatian territory around Pljesivica for weaknesses, so larger, better armed units can mount an attack.

"You will have to live off the land like a hunter," Zvonimir, their instructor warns them. "You'll have to learn not to leave tracks, and how to survive." The first days of winter training are a repetitive grind to learn how to use the surplus East German snow smocks and cross-country skis.

The Pumas conceal themselves under brush and behind shallow berms. Teams of Croatian interior police (MUP) are sent out to locate and identify their hiding places — it's a classic game of cat and mouse.

The Puma arsenal will need some serious beefing up, though, before any serious stalking of Serbs begins. Most soldiers at Otocac are equipped with older AKs, some newer AKMs and various Yugoslavian FAZ AK derivatives. But their uniforms are new, and their morale is high.

No heavy automatic weapons are in sight, nor are there any signs of the old Croatian T-54 tanks that once stalked the dirt roads skirting Serb lines. "Our tank crews are getting training in Slavonia," said Mihla



Croatian special forces trooper stands in Balkan winter with Yugo M72B1 light machine gun that sports grenade launcher, but not grenade sight. In Balkans, weapons, uniforms — and training — are often predicated on what is available.

Janko Bobetko recently told reporters that Serb forces — numbering between 100 and 400 — were in winter training at the Slunj, Croatia, training grounds, less than 100 miles away.

Bobetko said the Serbs were using tanks, APCs and artillery in their maneuvers, a clear sign the next few months are going to be hard on his troops.

"I'm sure we can regain some of the lost ground," says Misetic. "They have no more will to fight. We do. We want our land back, and I know our training is superior."

But Misetic's commander, a middle-aged former school teacher who did not give his name, says the troops are still green and need a lot more training. "They still don't know how to move in the snow, how to hide themselves and how to work with artillery and tanks," he says. "But they are good soldiers, and this might be the last winter we have to get our homes back."

Bankovic agrees: "When they have learned to shoot and survive in the woods better, we will have a live-fire



Heavy weapons are in short supply and mortars are a poor man's artillery. MUP troopers train on Yugo M75 120mm mortar, which can handle a full range of ammo, including a rocket-assisted bomb with a range of nearly 10 klicks.

training. The soldiers are not good enough yet. Only after they have been tested in the snow can we begin to fight the Serbs."

The training continues: The test is soon to come.

Misetic, a member of the MUP squad training at Otocac. "When they come back, the Serbs will have to really fight in order to hold their ground."

Misetic and his tanker friends may soon get their wish. Croatian General

A frequent contributor, Mark Milstein has deployed to Budapest for the winter to cover the upcoming actions in Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia. ❧

“There is always something exciting happening in Warren County,” promises a brochure in the Chamber of Commerce office, across the street from the courthouse square in McMinnville, Tennessee. But as it drowns in the still, summer shadows of oak trees and historical markers, the tranquil square seems an unlikely place to find excitement. Like many facets of life in the Old South, however, appearances can be deceiving.

Bordered on three other sides by the county courthouse, the district attorney’s office and City Bank & Trust Co., that shady patch of the old South was transformed last August into a symbolic stage for a real-life Gothic drama. The plot is one of judicial, political and financial intrigue that runs the gamut from small-town standbys such as ticket-fixing and altering or stealing public records, up to and including alleged bank embezzlement, bribery, and collusion with drug dealers.

Hidden somewhere on the stage, between the courthouse, the prosecutor’s office and City Bank & Trust — all under federal investigation — is that ephemeral, ever elusive commodity called justice. As is often the case in stories like this, justice seems mysteriously hamstrung, somewhere between the politics and the money.

The public debut of this classically Southern soap opera was produced in large part by a Yankee, mysteriously absent when the curtain rose. He’s a man who strikes most people as a big-city hustler. Few men are hated so much for doing a job so well as Mickey Downie. He is known to certain Warren County dope dealers, including the son-in-law of Tennessee

state Sen. Jerry W. Cooper, as an eager drug buyer. Otherwise known as Agent 817, Downie strikes some as a cocksure confidence man and is a walking electronic bug. A former professional big-game hunter, he’s also been a gun runner, drug trafficker and all-around smuggler who’s cut deals in Africa, Asia and the United States.

But what most people who meet the 43-year-old Downie don’t know

and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Downie specializes in official corruption, and if he’s successful, he usually makes political as well as legal waves, sometimes for the same people who sought his services. His view of law enforcement is black and white. He makes trouble for criminals and crooked officials — sometimes for himself — wherever he goes.

Walking Tall In Tennessee

Downie was hired in the fall of 1993, by former Warren County Sheriff Mason Black, 58. Black already had lost one investigator in the crossfire of a longstanding political feud between the offices of the district attorney and the sheriff. The crux of the matter seems to be

whether the sheriff’s office will operate with autonomy as the lead law enforcement agency of the county, or will act mainly as an investigative arm of the district attorney’s office. This struggle has lasted 10 years, since before either Black or District Attorney General William M. Locke were elected. But Black was the first sheriff to seriously threaten a mini-cartel of successful drug traffickers.

“When we were going out and just busting the little nickel-dime dealers, everybody was happy. And if I’d let it go at that, I’d probably still be sheriff,” Black admitted. “But when we started rolling over some of these guys and working up the drug ladder, it seemed like the district attorney’s office would start to throw obstacles in our path. We had some other people voluntarily come forward with information. These people feared for their lives.”

“People were afraid to be seen coming into the sheriff’s office, because the word always seemed to get out, especially if anyone in the DA’s office knew anything about it,” Downie told *Soldier Of Fortune* during five days of interviews. “So we had graveyards all over the county that we ran meetings in. You’d be



Seat of “justice” in Warren County, where indictments mysteriously disappear, selected cases are continued out of existence, and grand jury is used as political weapon. From upper window, a courthouse secretary takes pictures of *SOF*’s party out front — while we take hers. Photo: Mark Milstein

is that he’s a cop, a full-time contract operative who’s worked during the past two decades with the U.S. Border Patrol, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; U.S. Customs,

surprised at how honest people get, looking at all those headstones.”

Black is a devoutly religious teetotaler with a modest, old-fashioned upbringing. A self-described redneck, he jokes about what he calls “the silk stocking crowd.” His basic reputation for honesty is unchallenged, even by his enemies. The worst complaint voiced with regularity is that during his 20-plus years with the Tennessee Highway Patrol, he was such a stickler that “he’d even write his own mama a ticket.” After retirement, he was recruited by the county commissioners to complete the final half of a four-year term as sheriff when his predecessor was forced out in a scandal. In 1990, Black was elected in a landslide. But he was soundly defeated this year in a four-way race that included Jeff Stiles, a convicted cattle thief who is one of Black’s former deputies. It was won by Jackie Metheny, a political novice recruited by District Attorney General Locke.

Crackpot Or Crusader

Depending on which faction you ask, Mason Black is either a paranoid Don Quixote or an unflinching crusader against corrupt politics. His critics, led by a courthouse clique that revolves around Locke’s office, poo-poo his performance as that of a sanctimonious “Sheriff Chicken Little.”

“All I have for Mason Black is pity,” said Larry Ross, an assistant district attorney who’s Black’s most outspoken critic and Locke’s most influential staffer. “He is a tormented man. He thinks everyone is corrupt except him and he has a monopoly on the truth ... There’s nothing we can do about that.”

Black’s accusations of corruption are “just one man’s opinion,” Locke told *SOF* in an interview during Black’s last days in office. “It’s a

small community. Most everybody knows everybody. Some people are friends and then you have some people that obviously don’t care much for each other, gettin’ a little political faction going back and forth ... What we want to know is when he’s going to make this big case that this Mickey Downie character has been working on for the last five months, when Downie hasn’t even been in the

dercover phone numbers, and began spreading phony allegations about Downie through a whisper campaign. As Downie’s efforts against drug smugglers continued to mount, he and Black were sued by a disabled man Downie followed and stopped because he thought the driver was drunk. A crack dealer also sued, saying her rights had been violated by Downie. In both cases, the plaintiffs

were assisted behind the scenes by Locke’s office.

Buford Pusser Rides Again

Black’s admirers cast him in the tradition of a more famous Tennessee sheriff, the late Buford Pusser, immortalized in the movie *Walking Tall* for pre-

vailing against long odds in bringing justice to a corrupt rural Tennessee backwater. Whatever the case, Black’s six years as sheriff climaxed in its final week when news of two separate federal investigations, one of alleged embezzlement of \$800,000 at City Bank & Trust and the other of alleged corruption across the square, in the district attorney’s office and the courthouse, appeared in the *Southern Standard*, the county newspaper. The stories forced into the public spotlight festering allegations that the judicial system is

regularly manipulated as a political instrument of favoritism, reward and reprisal.

Warren County “has experienced a lot of justice for sale, in my opinion,” said Jeff Fults, who was chief deputy under Black. “It’s like an auction block ... where justice isn’t dispensed fairly, [but] is bought and sold like hogs and cattle.”

Like Black, Fults has had his own bitter disappointments challenging the political establishment. He lives on property

SOF Exposes Corrupt Democrats in the Old South

by James L. Pate

state or the county. We’d love to see the results of this major thing that they’ve been working on ... When’s he going to make that big case? Because by the end of another week, he needs to do that [because his term as sheriff expires].”

Ross and Locke had another reason for wanting to see Downie. Soon after Downie arrived in the county, Locke’s office began an effort to ruin Downie’s credibility. Downie said they used the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation to illegally obtain un-



SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown, right, talks with Sheriff Mason Black, his wife and the author. The Blacks were about to make first of several grand jury appearances, to answer accusations Black’s drug agents had misappropriated funds. It was a preemptive move to discredit his allegations of corruption in the court system, Black said. Photo: Mark Milstein

straddling the Warren-Grundy County line, where his family has been in the logging business for six generations. Four years ago, when he ran for sheriff of Grundy County, where his home is located, he asked for a recount af-

“You can see how the people here could have the opinion that there are two systems of justice in Warren County. One for the rich and one for the poor.”

ter an apparently narrow loss. The next morning, the Grundy County Courthouse — and all the ballots — burned. County investigators ruled the fire arson — but said it was coincidental.

“The kid gloves are finally off,” the *Southern Standard* declared in an editorial. Citing “the mistrust and hard feelings that have grown like a cancer within the [local judicial] system,” the paper stated that “what was revealed [in Black’s allegations to the feds] was not pretty, but it hasn’t been pretty in this community for a long time ... You can see how people here could have the opinion [that] there are two systems of justice in Warren County. One for the rich and one for the poor.”

The best known example — there are many — is that of Sherry Mahar, daughter of a prominent McMinnville family. Then a law student whose admittance to the bar could have been adversely affected by a drunk driving conviction, Mahar was charged in June 1990 with driving under the influence after colliding head-on with a car driven by a man already forced to use a wheelchair. Both his legs were broken in the crash. Mahar registered .19 on a blood alcohol test, almost twice the threshold to be convicted for drunk driving. The district attorney’s office happily acquiesced in many continuances of the case — for two-and-a-half years. When it finally got to court in March 1993, it was learned that the district attorney’s office had dismissed the warrant two months after the charge was filed. Assistant District Attorney Larry Ross said new charges would be sought through a grand jury. It never happened. Mahar completed law school

and now clerks for a member of the Tennessee State Supreme Court. Yet she has a clean driving record, as no legal action was ever taken against her.

So, too, does Donnie B. Jaco of McMinnville. Jaco was convicted of driving under the influence in 1990. On 5 January 1994, he showed up at the local driver’s license office with a letter allegedly from a court official advising that his DUI conviction should be removed from Jaco’s record and a new license issued. The office staff declined to do so. Yet two computer printouts of Jaco’s driving record — one before 4 January and one after — indicate the drunk driving conviction was not only deleted, but his record was further altered to change his revocation to an expired license, which allowed him to reapPLY for full driving privileges.

Another example: The son of a

Rhea, a local contractor charged with several other prominent McMinnville businessmen on bribery, fraud and perjury charges in a bid-rigging case in 1983. (Rhea was subsequently sent to prison for perjury.) Cole faced trial on a DUI charge in 1991 and it was his third offense. He’d had his license revoked twice. Assistant District Attorney Ross asked General Sessions Court Judge Barry M. Medley to approve a dismissal of the charge, another court official who witnessed the conversation told *SOF*. Medley declined, saying another case was being watched by the local paper, which might also pick up on Cole’s dismissal. Ross’ solution was to continue the Cole case on the pretense of sending it to the grand jury, because Cole intended to enlist in the Marine Corps and would be gone by then. Cole never enlisted, his case never got to the grand jury and it disappeared from court records. Medley and Ross said they did not remember the case.

Chuckie Stewart and Jeff Mayfield, whose families are among the



Despite best efforts of Mason Black, druggies still hold sway in Warren County. Billboard urges people to volunteer information, but most are too afraid of reprisal. Two members of the drug community died under suspicious circumstances soon after agreeing to help bust dealers. Black’s biggest obstacle was not street dopers, but the DA’s office. Photo: Mark Milstein

local law enforcement officer was indicted for drug trafficking. The father is good friends with a member of the district attorney’s office staff. A court official witnessed a prosecution staff member secretly removing the indictment from the court file, the witness told *SOF*. It was never executed. *SOF* obtained the names and dates to verify the case.

Barry Cole is the step-son of Elijah

county’s wealthier residents, never had to go to all that trouble. They were arrested in separate incidents for drunk driving in late 1993. The district attorney’s office simply refused to prosecute. This happens on a regular basis. Cases are continued until they simply disappear from the docket. Or they never make the docket. And paperwork mysteriously disappears from the court clerk’s files.

Pending criminal matters are kept in certain marked drawers in the clerk's office: *Set for Arraignment, Set for Trial, Continued to Be Set*. The latter is jokingly referred to among some members of McMinnville's legal community as "the disappearing drawer," because indictments pertaining to certain well-connected people have been placed in that drawer, never to be seen again.

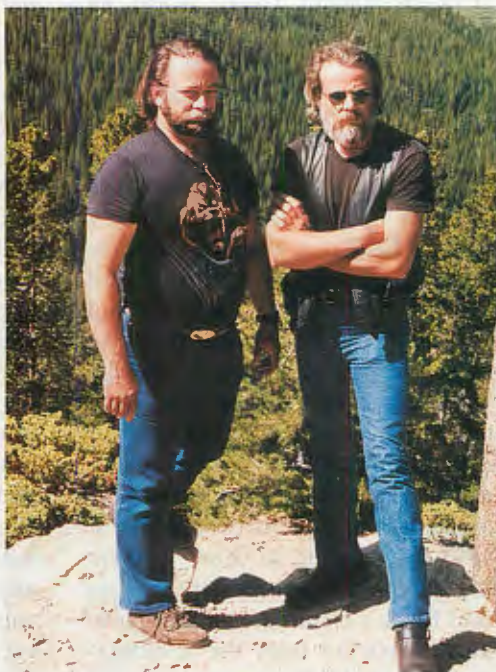
"There's been several [disappearing cases] that I know of," said Bernard Smith, a successful trial attorney in McMinnville, who lost to Locke in the last district attorney's election. "The problem is not with the judges. The problem is directly with the DA's office ... They don't do a damn thing that's not political. The DA's office is operated in a totally different manner than what you'll find in the adjoining counties ... All you need to do is look at the missing warrants. You can follow the trail ... There are some warrants that are gone."

When several citizens, irked over the lax treatment afforded certain repeat DUI offenders, tried to organize a Mothers Against Drunk Drivers chapter in McMinnville, they publicly criticized Locke's office. Locke responded by attacking them in print, claiming his office convicted 87% of all DUI cases tried. That figure, of course, doesn't reflect the large number of cases dismissed, lost or continued into oblivion. Locke later threatened the state MADD headquarters in Nashville, a state official confirmed. MADD subsequently withdrew its charter offer.

Witnesses Wake Up Dead

The fear spoken of by Downie and Black on the part of people who want to expose corruption is not unfounded. Two men who'd agreed to work as drug informants died very soon, both under unexplained circumstances. Billy Hill's death was ruled a drug overdose, but he was visiting the home of a drug dealer who happened to also be buddies with two well-known law enforcement officials. Another, James West, agreed to cooperate. He was found dead the day

after he was released from jail under suspicious and yet unexplained circumstances.



Mickey Downie, left, and David Wheat at author's Colorado home after two days of intensive interviews. After making allegations of courthouse corruption in Warren County, both men had to relocate families due to repeated death threats. Photo: James Pate

"Anytime anyone in the district attorney's office found out any plans about an upcoming drug raid, it would be mysteriously compromised at the last minute," Downie told *SOF*. "They always wanted prior approval before we went out to serve search warrants. I've never worked that way. I won't work that way."

Most of the people who do get arrested for drugs are "out of the housing projects," Smith said. "Those people aren't drug dealers or they wouldn't be living there. There's never been a good major league bust on anybody living in Warren County. Something smells. By God, there's enough of the shit around here ... There's methamphetamine all over this county. But when they catch some guy, the police [the local law-enforcement/prosecution establishment] never seem to go up the ladder with it."

Indeed, most of the major drug convictions in Warren County occur only when the feds get involved, such as when two well-known car dealers were sent to federal prison on drug trafficking charges this spring. When

there is a sizable local bust, the district attorney's office seems all too eager to grant generous terms.

Such were the cases of two McMinnville businessmen, Barry Underwood, a hardware store owner, and Kent Webb, owner of a sporting goods store. They were arrested separately on 31 March 1992, each with more than a half-ounce of cocaine, a felony trafficking charge.

But Underwood's warrant wasn't filed until five months later. When it got to court — traffic court — a month after that, his name was omitted from the published court docket, and he was allowed to remain secluded in a side room until his case was called at the end of the day, when all other business had been disposed of and the courtroom was virtually empty. Webb's case was handled in a similarly generous fashion that spared both the humiliation of having to sit in open court with the common rabble. Both men were allowed by General Sessions Court Judge Barry M. Medley — who normally would not hear felony drug cases — to plead guilty to charges reduced by the district attorney's office to misdemeanors. Underwood served 10 days in jail, Webb 15. By contrast, Kevin Elders, son of the U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, was convicted of possessing with intent to sell a third of the amount of cocaine that Underwood and Webb had — and Elders was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison.

Yet Locke, the district attorney, was quoted in the local paper as saying Warren County didn't have a serious drug problem. He was responding to a flurry of crack cocaine busts by Downie's undercover team, publicly rebutting their assertion that large quantities of cocaine were being moved through the county.

A survey by *High Times*, a drug culture magazine, agreed with Locke. There's no problem: Good drugs are easy to acquire in Warren County. Home to more than 600 plant nurseries, the county calls itself the nursery capital of the world. In 1987, *High Times* ranked the county as one of the top marijuana-growing regions of the nation. That illicit crop is often grown hidden among nursery stock, according to Downie.

"They've used the DA's office to take care of their friends ..." Smith

said. "It's kind of weird the way they do things." As for Black, "I think he's honest ... If he's made any mistakes, they've been honest mistakes."

Regardless of who is at fault, *Southern Standard* reporter Duane

"It seems like somebody's always taking the fall except the big shots. It ain't even a decent place to bring up kids no more. It's eat up with dope."

Sherrill wrote that while politicians feuded, citizens endured "a crime wave like this county has never seen."

When told by *SOF* of specific, very detailed bribery allegations against certain court officials, General Sessions Court Judge Medley expressed extreme disbelief, saying he was "seething" at the idea such allegations would be made. "I've found generally that the people I work with are all trying to do the best job that they can do," he said in a telephone interview. "They're honest people. But the court system is very complex and things get screwed up sometimes. I don't think anybody is doing anything dishonest."

Saying he had never accepted a bribe, been offered a bribe or even experienced the merest hint of a suggestion, Circuit Court Judge Charles D. Haston, the county's only other judge, said the whole affair "placed a dark cloud over the entire local judicial system ... In one broad stroke, someone has tarred and feathered the whole system. I won't put up with this. Charges of misconduct and bribe-taking challenge the very foundation of our government ... Wrongfully making such allegations is as criminal as the act which is being alleged. It's unfair, improper and, by God, it's wrong. Somebody will be held responsible."

Haston's response to news about the federal investigation prompted by Downie and Black, was to immediately convene a grand jury of his own. "I'm not going to wait on an outside agency to look into this," he said. A subpoena was issued demanding that Black reveal the identities of all drug informants being used by the sheriff's department — a virtually unheard-of request guaranteed to destroy his in-

formant network and endanger his informants. Also demanded were all pay and telephone records, time sheets and other records on Downie and his chief investigator, David Wheat, an undercover veteran of the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations.

The implication by the district attorney's office is that drug money was improperly disbursed, and that Wheat and Downie filed for excessive pay in July and August, when Black said he had sent them out of the county in furtherance of their corruption investigation. But financial hanky-panky seems unlikely on the part of a sheriff who, in fiscal 1993-94, returned to county coffers \$126,000 in unspent tax dollars. Ross said Black's claims are an attempt to divert attention from the investigation of Downie. Black sees that probe as a political move to erode the credibility of his corruption allegations.

The story surfaced in the local newspaper the day after a final visit to McMinnville by the author and *SOF* Publisher Robert K. Brown. Courthouse insiders described the district attorney's staff as "very upset" by the rapidly unfolding story. Initially, at least, no one, including the local newspaper, questioned the propriety of Warren County's judicial officials calling a grand jury to in-

vestigate allegations against themselves. A special prosecutor — an assistant prosecutor from another district — was finally named. The local publicity blitz gave hope to many ordinary citizens for what they say is their long quest for equal, fair government.

"I'd never voted for Mason Black until this last time, but I've greatly admired the way he's stuck his neck out for the ordinary citizens in this county," said a lifelong resident, a former election commissioner who asked not to be named. "I'd trust him with my life. And that's saying something, because I really believe this is the most corrupt county in the South. You could be an honest small businessman and go downtown tomorrow and not get air in a jug from the bank. But if you play golf and party with the right folks, you can have anything you want. It seems like somebody's always taking the fall except the big shots. It ain't even a decent place to bring up kids no more. It's eat up with dope."

Corrupt or not, Warren County isn't exactly the New South. Against a backdrop of the nearly century-old Warren County courthouse, one finds "two distinct kinds of justice," court reporter Sherrill complained in a personal column two years ago. "One ... pertains to the poor and average person while the second ... applies to the rich and prominent." Left of the courthouse square is the office of the local prosecutor, the central focus of



Warren County District Attorney General William Locke, right, whose golfing partner got caught in FBI embezzlement investigation: Locke called U.S. attorney, suggested prosecution be handled locally. Larry Ross, left, is one of several courthouse staffers under federal investigation on corruption charges. Robert W. Boyd Jr., pictured center, is a junior assistant prosecutor. Photo: Mark Milstein

one federal investigation for alleged corruption. At stage right is City Bank & Trust Co., target of another federal investigation into a major embezzlement scheme.

Federal Investigation

The two FBI investigations are officially unrelated but when one knows the cast of characters, it's hard to imagine that they won't cross lines. Although not all are necessarily implicated in any wrongdoing, there are enough overlapping social and family ties between members of the judicial system, the bank and the local Democratic Party to be of more than passing curiosity to a competent investigator. Some examples:

Steven L. Phillips: A former senior vice president at CB&T, Phillips was a rising star in the bank and highly respected in the community until his unexpected resignation in early August. Word soon spread about a federal grand jury meeting in Chattanooga to investigate the alleged embezzlement of more than \$800,000. Phillips' testimony to that grand jury the last week of August spawned a flurry of nervous rumors that Phillips may have cut a deal with federal prosecutors, and that others will be implicated.

Jerry W. Cooper: A state senator from McMinnville who served for many years on CB&T's board of directors until asked to resign in April. "It had to do with his business affairs," CB&T President Jeff Golden told *SOF*, declining to elaborate further. It is no secret in McMinnville's retailing community that the senator's Cooper Manufacturing Corp. has been in dire financial straits for more than a year. Cooper's abrupt departure from the bank board may be connected to his \$1.2-million loan from CB&T, which he's struggling to repay.

Another outstanding debt, a no-interest loan for \$100,000, is owed by Cooper's business to the federal Rural Electrification Administration. The rural development loan, the maximum allowable, was recommended for approval by the Caney Fork Electric Cooperative board of directors, whose members include Paul Davis, Cooper's political campaign manager. After the 1992 election, Cooper's campaign was accused of violating several campaign finance laws. Co-

per and his campaign treasurer — former CB&T Vice President Phillips — were cleared by a state audit.

Paul Davis: A former member of the Warren County Election Commission, Davis resigned in January 1993, two months after state Sen. Cooper's election. Davis was hired as an "office assistant," a newly created \$25,000 per year position, by District Attorney General Locke. Locke

office has been criticized by the Tennessee comptroller of the treasury for three consecutive years for its failure to properly document expenditures from the office's Fraud and Economics Crime Fund. Locke has used the fund to make repeated unauthorized pay supplements to his staff, buy them monogrammed shirts, pay bar membership dues and buy firearms.

When news surfaced about the



Jeff Fuels, Sheriff Black's chief deputy, with son and father at family sawmill. Fuels ran for sheriff of neighboring Grundy County, where his house is located. After requesting recount on close election, courthouse burned next morning: A back door had been left open for arsonists. Fuels vows to return to law enforcement. Photo: James Pate

denied persistent rumors that the job was one of political patronage dispensed at the behest of Locke's close friend and political ally, Cooper.

Davis is a partner in a real estate venture with Cooper, who paid Davis \$2,000 as campaign manager. Locke told the *Southern Standard* that Davis, who has no training as a lawyer or a paralegal, has managerial experience, but was unable to cite any specifics. Davis had been a machinery maintenance technician and pipe fitter for a nearby University of Tennessee science project. He is more fondly remembered by courthouse loafers for starving some cows to death.

William J. Locke: A hands-off administrator with virtually no experience in criminal or other courtroom law, he rarely tries a case himself, almost always letting one of his two assistants do the actual trial work. A member of the local all-white country club and an avid golfer, Locke's

FBI's embezzlement investigation at CB&T and it became known that Phillips, a close friend and frequent golfing partner of Locke's, was a suspect, Locke called the U.S. Attorney's office and suggested that prosecution should be handled instead "on a state level," according to two sources, one in Locke's office and another with the U.S. Attorney's staff. The latter characterized the phone call from Locke as "most unusual." The feds declined Locke's request, the sources said. Locke denied to *SOF* that he had ever made such a phone call.

Larry Ross: Ross has worked in the prosecutor's office since about 1980. Although he's listed as an investigator, he received a law degree in 1992. According to several longtime observers in the county's legal community interviewed by *SOF*, it is Ross — not Locke — who really runs

Continued on page 67

The Man Who H

Most people think of Vietnam as a terrifying experience: rockets whistling in from unknown directions, sappers charging through the wire and snipers firing from every tree. Such things happened, of course, but for rear echelon troops at the supply base in Long Binh boredom was the prime enemy — a long and dreary drill of work, heat and dust.

For an ordnance officer with a nuclear weapons specialty, there was even less to do. At times Lieutenant John “Jack” Throckmorton felt he was sitting out the war. Like the good officer he aspired to be, he sought more, and his second-in-command, Chief Warrant Officer Jerry Johnson,



Near this camp at Bu Dop in March 1967, U.S. nuclear policy in Vietnam came close to being compromised. Through enemy intelligence, a routine body recovery mission took on James Bond dimensions.

provided it.

Johnson had struck up a relationship with the Special Forces of the 3rd Mobile Strike (Mike) Force, the “China Boys,” stationed in nearby Bien Hoa. He took newly assigned Throckmorton with him for a visit. The Mike Force quickly adopted the young man, ceremoniously in-

ducted him into the team-house bar, fed him drinks and told him their war stories. Throckmorton, in return, procured much for his SF friends with their outdated equipment.

Their gratitude was appreciated, but it still didn't give Throckmorton what he really wanted — a piece of the action. Special Forces, headquartered in Nha Trang, frowned on taking along straphangers, particularly if not authorized in advance. One could not justify a young ordnance lieutenant on patrol, no matter how helpful he had been.

Things changed on 21 March 1967 after the Mike Force captured a Viet Cong during a routine patrol. The captive was lightly bound and guarded by a couple of local Nung soldiers. Master Sergeant Charles Hosking stood idly by while the Nung CO conferred with several of the Americans. Hosking, a veteran of World War II, Korea, the Congo and Laos, had a habit of carrying grenades, pins removed, taped to his web gear. Not a safe way of doing things, but he'd seen more combat than almost anyone around and was still alive.

Unnoticed, the VC slipped his bonds, sprung at Hosking, and before the sergeant could stop him tore one of the grenades loose and ran toward the command group. Hosking took the only course of action available and tackled the VC, smothering the grenade with his body. He was killed instantly. The team commander took several fragments and Staff Sergeant Roger Hallberg was left standing, shaken but unhurt. Hosking was later posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his sacrifice.

Throckmorton was attending his friend's memorial service when the Mike Force received another mission. A patrol from Camp Bu Dop, an isolated outpost barely two kilometers from the Cambodian border, had been ambushed and forced to leave a number of dead behind as they retreated. The China Boys were needed to recover the bodies.

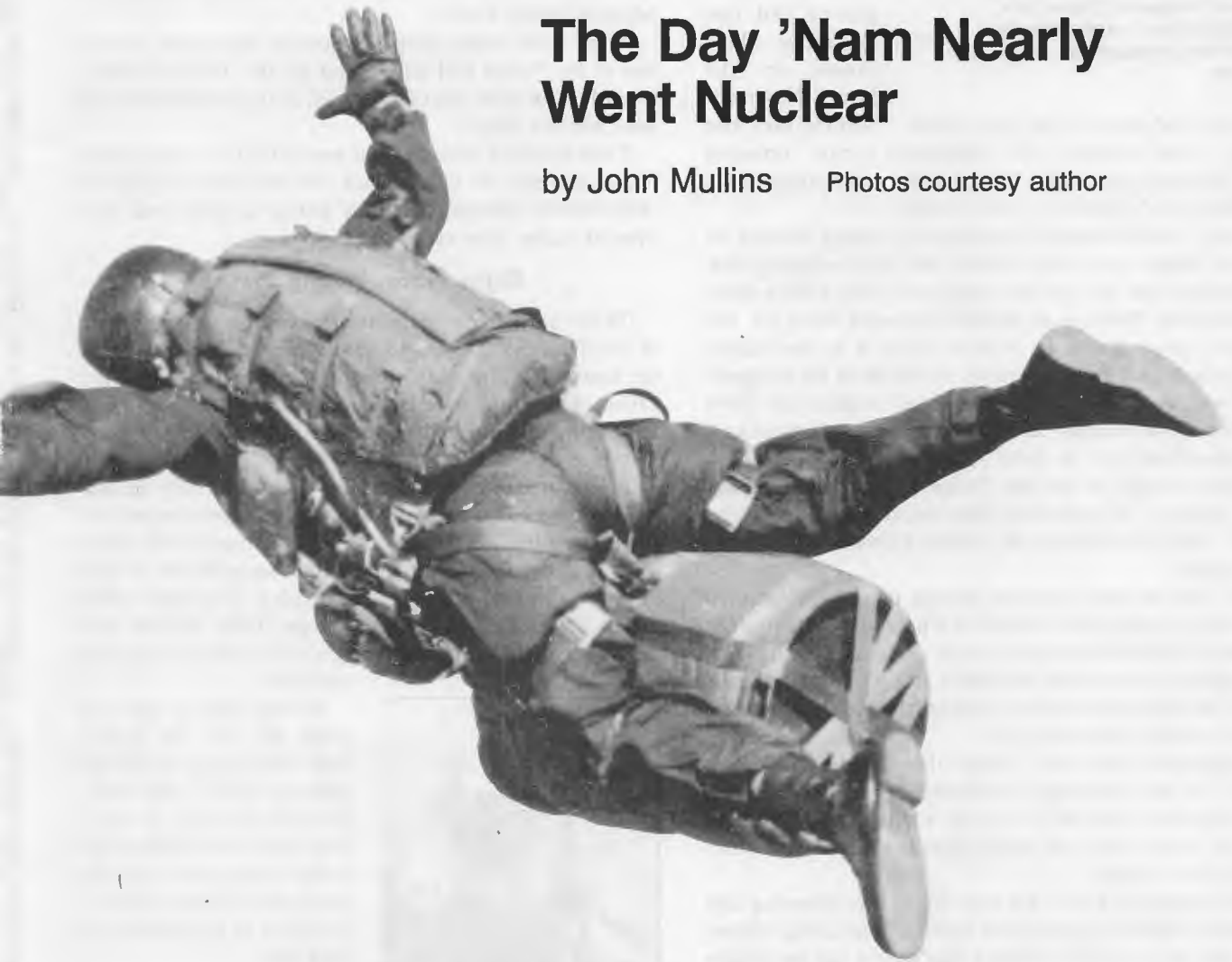
Captain Stewart faced a personnel problem. The team medic was so shaken by recent events that he would have to be left behind. Sergeant First Class J.W. Edgell would need to go with the heavy weapons section. That left Stewart with two platoons of Nung troops and only one other American, Sgt. Hallberg. While the Nungs were seasoned soldiers and could probably get by without an American commander, few of them spoke English. Another American was needed.

Stewart grabbed Throckmorton: “We need help. Want

Revealed The Secrets

The Day 'Nam Nearly Went Nuclear

by John Mullins Photos courtesy author



Small Atomic Demolitions Munitions (SADM) could be employed personally such as this practice HALO with dummy device, or could be emplaced statically to prevent enemy capture of strategic locations such as supply depots.

to go for a little walk in the woods? We just need to go out for a couple of hours and recover some bodies.” Throckmorton volunteered.

They rose early the next morning and loaded onto Caribou cargo planes for the first leg of the journey. From Bien Hoa to the camp at Bu Dop was a short one-hour flight. From there to the LZ was a

five-minute chopper ride.

Throckmorton and an interpreter joined their element as the aircraft began shuttling the patrol to the LZ. Jack Throckmorton watched the well-trained troopers rush toward the treeline to set up a perimeter once they arrived. In the center of the LZ was a burned-out hulk of another Huey — a reminder of the unseen dangers.

Throckmorton ran toward the treeline, joining Hallberg and Stewart. There had been no firing, no sign of the enemy. The helicopters would be back in a few minutes



SFC Edgell (back row, 2nd from right) was one of only two American members of Mike Force to survive ambush designed to kidnap U.S. Nuclear Weapons Officer Jack Throckmorton — a disaster that could have changed the course of the war.

can unit had been in the area before, meaning only one thing — the presence of a regimental enemy command post. Moments later two Nungs broke and sprinted back toward the LZ. Then the firing began.

Jack Throckmorton remembered seeing dozens of muzzle flashes from the treeline and little outgoing fire. The enemy was so close he could hear shells sliding down mortar tubes. Soldiers all around him were being hit. His weapon jammed and he tried to clear it as the bullets came closer and closer. Perhaps at this point his inexperience was an asset. A more seasoned soldier may have realized how serious the situation was and panicked. Throckmorton kept his head — too scared to panic.

In the middle of all this Hallberg came running back with a sitrep: He estimated they faced a reinforced platoon — tell the captain. He rushed forward, never to be seen again.

By some miracle, or so he thought then, Throckmorton was totally untouched. Unsure of what to do, with most of the men around him already dead or seriously wounded, he began to crawl to the command group for orders. As he did so he noticed the enemy, camouflaged as small bushes, slowly moving in his direction.

Stewart had been shot through the shoulder and looked dazed. He was clutching the handset of the PRC-25 radio he carried, the cord shot away by a bullet. Jack could see that the radio itself had taken several hits and was obviously out of action.

He seemed to gather his wits after Throckmorton told him about Hallberg going back forward. The captain shook his head. It was quite obvious that they'd run up against far more than a reinforced platoon. Later it was determined that two battalions of the 9th VC Division — 500 to 700 men — had mounted the ambush. Stewart had tried to get the heavy weapons platoon inserted to support them, but heavy fire on the LZ had driven them off. His radio had been shot up before he had been able to call in any airstrikes. They'd have to fight it out on their own.

Take Him Alive

The enemy shouting was closer, easily heard even over the din of battle. Stewart turned to the interpreter and asked what they were saying. "They say catch the tall one with white hair. Do not hurt him. Take him alive. He's the one we want."

with the vital heavy weapons platoon so they moved out with Hallberg's platoon on point, and Throckmorton and his men 15 meters to the left.

The first indication of trouble was the sight of telephone wire running along the ground and into the trees. This shook up the Nungs. No American

Stewart looked at Throckmorton, 6 foot 2 inches and white-blond hair. "And why is it they'd want you?" he asked.

"Hell, I don't know," Throckmorton replied. "No way they could know that I'm a nuclear weapons officer."

Stewart looked at Throckmorton in astonishment. As a Special Forces officer, he was acutely aware of Throckmorton's value to the enemy. The Green Berets knew the SADM (Small Atomic Demolitions Munition) well. One or two teams in each SF Group was trained in its use: Get it into the target area, turn it on and run like hell. Even their somewhat limited knowledge was critically sensitive. How much more disastrous for an officer like this, trained on *all* the Army's nuclear weapons, to fall into enemy hands.

"Hoa, take these people," Stewart motioned toward five of the Nungs still alive, "and get the *Trung Ui* (lieutenant) out of here. Go that way. We'll try to hold them off until you get clear."

Throckmorton protested but was cut off. In a scene that haunts him still, he looked back one last time, hearing the characteristic thump of bullets hitting a body, and saw Stewart slump over his rifle.

Right Place, Wrong Time

To his amazement and horror came the shrieking roar of low-flying jets, followed by the explosion of bombs on the nearby LZ. Apparently one of the Nung sergeants had called in the strike over Hallberg's radio. But with no one left to properly direct them, the strikes were equally dangerous to both sides.

A jet roared directly toward him giving him only enough time to drop behind a large tree before 20mm-cannon fire ripped up a tree not 50 meters ahead. Splinters and pieces of flesh decorated the ground. Within seconds the jet was back for a second pass, this time eating up ground a few meters closer. Caught between the jet strikes in front and the VC behind, Throckmorton could only hold his ground and pray.



Dated weapons, such as this M2 Carbine, of local Nung troopers at Bien Hoa required special procurement techniques, which eventually led to a relationship with a unique ordnance officer.

By the time of the last strike, the VC had pulled back. The Nungs asked the ordnance officer what to do. His only idea was to organize them, move further out of the killing zone, put out perimeter security and hide the group in a small thicket until dark.

Throughout a long afternoon and into the night they listened as the VC finished off the few survivors and beat the bush for him. Expecting discovery at any second, Throckmorton had already vowed to kill himself rather than be taken alive.

When at midnight they were still undiscovered, he thought it safe to start moving toward Bu Dop. He had only the vaguest sense as to where it might be, but to stay where they were was to

invite disaster.

Movement was slow: move, stop, listen. They hid as searchers passed by and changed directions when it appeared there was someone ahead. They passed freshly dug enemy positions and more communications wire. By early morning they were tormented by thirst. At one point they passed over a large trail and a hushed argument broke out, some of the Nungs thinking it was the road into Bu Dop. Three of them broke off down the road and were never seen again.

Sometime after first light the shrunken group came to a large clearing. Knowing it was dangerous to cross it, they cautiously skirted along the edge. Slowly they crept, crawling more than walking, expecting at any instant to be met by enemy fire from the distant treeline.

Throckmorton heard the *whomp* of helicopter blades and tried to signal. The gunships saw movement, assumed a strike formation, and were obviously ready to fire up the area. He took off a hat Hoa had given him to hide his blond hair and waved it at them. One of the pilots saw him, and within moments they were airborne, on the way to Bu Dop.

At the Bu Dop airstrip a full colonel waited. He'd been personally sent by General Westmoreland to supervise the massive search and rescue now underway. He shook Jack's hand and said, "The general is pleased that you've been found. We've already sent a transmission to General Throckmorton, letting him know

DR. STRANGELOVE IN VIETNAM

The Small Atomic Demolitions Munition, or SADM (pronounced say-dem), is a so-called "backpack nuke" small enough to hand-implant by a detachment of engineers or a Special Forces team. The yield of such a device is still classified, but contingency plans indicate it is more than enough to destroy a dam that would not yield to conventional explosives, drop a mountainside down on an invading army, vaporize essential command and control installations, wipe out a large formation of tanks or deny an enemy avenue of approach. Exploded at ground level, it is a "dirty" bomb — residual radiation and fallout from such a device causes as many casualties as the initial blast.

That such devices were in Vietnam has been a not very closely guarded secret for many years. At one point a plan was put forward involving a Special Forces team implanting such a device in the Mu Gia Pass, the choke point on the North Vietnam/Laos border through which most supplies and troops traveling down the Ho Chi Minh Trail had to pass. Other contingency plans called for their use inside North Vietnam itself. During the siege of Khe Sanh, and indeed even when the French were surrounded at Dien Bien Phu, the use of such weapons was seriously contemplated by U.S. policy-makers. What was less well-known is that there was also a plan to destroy the huge American supply depots, should they be overrun.

Seeming foolhardy now, these provisions should be judged in the context of their times. American staff officers were haunted by memories of Chinese intervention in the Korean War. Numerous restrictions were placed on pilots flying north, none of them allowed to get anywhere near the China/North Vietnam border. U.S. planners feared a million-man Chinese army, shouting provocation, would have swept south, overrunning the country in a matter of days. All the more reason to deny them the supply depots, and kill a bunch of them in the meantime.

If you have such a device, you must have someone in charge of it. Two someones actually, since U.S. nuclear weapons doctrine incorporates what is known as the "two-man rule." Because we couldn't have some disgruntled or insane individual decide to take out a small city or depot such as Long Binh, two men were needed to detonate the device. Throckmorton and Johnson were such men.

What seems clear is that despite the secrecy surrounding the plans involving these devices, enemy intelligence services were aware of them early on. SADM-trained officers were obviously prime targets for intelligence operations. Their detailed knowledge of internal weapons design and function, employment policy and yield effects, failsafe methods and possible stockpiling data was intelligence information of the highest order.

To North Vietnamese intelligence and their Soviet KGB and GRU counterparts, it must have been an undreamed-of opportunity when they discovered such an officer was within their grasp. We now know both Throckmorton and Johnson were watched closely for the chance of abducting one or both. In a war zone with no real front lines, they were extremely vulnerable.

Interrogation of agents exposed as a result of counterintelligence operations after the Bu Dop incident revealed that information regarding Throckmorton's participation in the patrol had been quickly passed to the enemy. Thus an operation that had been designed to bloody the Mike Force one more time took on war-altering importance. The 9th Division took extremely heavy casualties in the bombing following the ambush, exposing themselves far more than they normally would. One aerial observer said that they were "swarming out on that LZ like ants."

It must have seemed worth it.

— J. M.

his son has been found. He and General Westmoreland have been terribly worried about you."

"That's very nice of you, sir," Jack replied, "but I'm not the general's son. My father is Colonel Throckmorton." The colonel looked at him in amazement, then utter disgust. "And we stopped the war for you?" he said, turned on his heel, went back into his shiny helicopter and flew away.

NWO MIA

When Throckmorton didn't return from the memorial service, Johnson was worried. Neither he nor the lieutenant was supposed to leave the confines of Long Binh, a restriction they both routinely ignored. He contented himself with the thought that the lieutenant had probably had a few too many after the memorial service and was sleeping it off at the Mike Force team house. Such things had happened before.

But when Throckmorton didn't return the next day, his worry turned into full-blown panic. He notified higher headquarters that a security breach of the worst magnitude had occurred. Within an hour two men from the Army Counter-Intelligence Corps (CIC) arrived. A very short time later they were on their way to Bien Hoa.

At Bien Hoa, Staff Sgt. J.P. Monaghan received a call alerting headquarters of the action at Bu Dop and notifying them that Stewart, Hallberg and Throckmorton were MIA. Monaghan was trying to get Special Forces troopers from an adjacent C-team together to search

Continued on page 64



LAWMASTER SAGA:

From Improbable Cause to Accidental Disclosure

by James L. Pate



John Lawmaster and a copy of the Bill of Rights in the Tulsa office of his attorney, Steve Sessinghaus. Lawmaster's advice to those wronged by the ATF: Sue the bastards! And never give up the struggle to preserve the Second Amendment. Photo: James Pate

For defenders of the Second Amendment, the name John Lawmaster has come to symbolize the fundamentally flawed law enforcement policies and the abusive, arrogant nature of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) toward law-abiding gun owners. Civil libertarians in general, and gun owners in particular, were outraged by the high-handed way in which Lawmaster's legal and constitutional rights, not to mention his home and private property, were violated. (See "Gun Gestapo," *SOF* June '92.)

Just as the most ardent anti-communists would have scoffed at any prediction that the Berlin Wall would be battered down and the Soviet empire would collapse under its own dead weight, none of the ATF's most vociferous critics — including this one — could have believed that the bureau would perpetrate a sham like the Randy Weaver case or an unmitigated disaster like the Waco raid: all infamous travesties of justice that make the ransacking of Lawmaster's home look like a harmless tactical drill. Perhaps it was.

As the outrages of the Lawmaster raid paled in comparison to the unjustified deaths caused directly and indirectly by the ATF cases in Texas and Idaho, the sinister direction of ATF enforcement policies has become increasingly clear. The Gun Gestapo is seeking approval to obtain close air support and tactical attack aircraft from the military. Active-duty U.S. Army, Navy SEAL and Marine Corps troops are assuming a larger role than ever before in training ATF agents. And the bureau is devoting more of its resources and time to instruction in such offensive tactical systems as the M113 armored personnel carrier and the Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

Meanwhile, John Lawmaster labors on, comfortable in his resumption of obscurity. His almost-forgotten, splintered front door heralded an all-out assault on truth, common sense, the law, the lives and property of humble citizens unseen since the dawn of our republic. A simple man

ATF and local SWAT teams are increasingly training with military troops and military equipment. Was raid on Lawmaster, Weaver and Davidians just a taste of things to come? Photo: courtesy Wisconsin National Guard Public Affairs

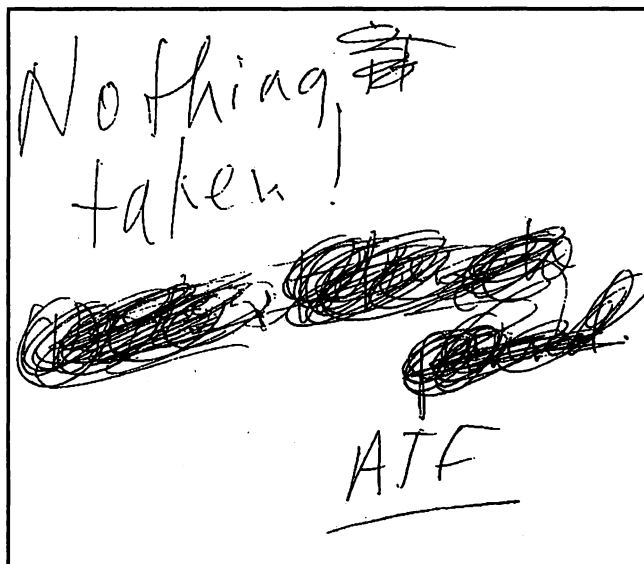
of modest means, the Oklahoma native has quietly continued his legal fight against ATF Agent P. Blair Ward, a loose cannon whose shoot-from-the-lip style has been involved, directly or indirectly, in at least two other federal lawsuits against the ATF, including that of Louis Katona III. (See "Miscarriage of Justice," *SOF* April '94, and "BAT'F'-Troop Rides Again," *SOF* August '94.)

Lawmaster is more comfortable out of the limelight. But he told *SOF* recently in Tulsa, Oklahoma, he is disturbed that gun owners have been lulled back into complacency: "No one hardly ever mentions my case anymore, and that's OK. But people have quit talking about what happened in Waco, and they've even got quiet about the gun-control bills that just passed. Now's not the time to get quiet, because there's more of this mess on the way. These anti-gun people aren't going to give up unless they get all the guns. More gun-control bills, worse than the one that just passed, are coming. And what they want is for us to get quiet. Because they're trying to put something over on honest citizens. The government is trying to sneak something in the people don't understand."

Lawmaster told *SOF* he thinks too many gun owners and gun dealers are caving in to the ATF's trickery and intimidation without a fight: "What these people are trying to do — and in many cases the way they try to do it — is against the law. Especially the pressure they're putting on law-abiding gun dealers. I know, because I own my own gun business. Instead of chasing real criminals, they're taking their cue from Sarah Brady and that [anti-gun] crowd, trying to force the little guys out of the gun business when they haven't done anything wrong. And what we have to do is fight back in the courts. I know it's

tough, financially. But the idea that we need to get across is to not just roll over and give up. Go out and do whatever is necessary to find yourself a good lawyer and fight back. Because, in many cases, the ATF doesn't have a leg to stand on. They just gamble on the hope that they'll not get challenged in court."

Lawmaster's case is a good example. He has sued Ward, the ATF, and other agents involved in the raid on his home for more than \$100,000 in punitive and actual damages, for violating his constitutional protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, and for damage to his home and its contents. The raid, based on



This crude note was only notice given Lawmaster of who ransacked his house and damaged his property on 16 December 1991, one day after 200th anniversary celebration of the Bill of Rights. One portion was scratched out when ATF agents decided not to take Lawmaster's two Labrador retrievers to the dog pound.

the unsubstantial affidavit of an unidentified and unproven informant, is a textbook example of the lax and even incompetent investigative methods used by Ward that, unfortunately, are typical of many ATF cases. A source told Ward that Lawmaster owned an AR15 illegally converted to full automatic. Ward failed to check out the veracity or weigh the possibly malicious motives of that informant — a woman Lawmaster had just divorced.

Once the case fell flat, with nothing to show for their efforts but Lawmaster's heavily damaged home and a flurry of negative publicity, the

Continued on page 70

GEER ON GEAR

by Galen Geer

This time around, we had the chance to test new gear in swampy South Florida while hunting wild pigs with our Seminole hosts, and on the 1993 *SOF* African safari. In addition, the 1994 SHOT show in Dallas displayed many new products — some high tech and some so simple and serviceable we wondered, “Why didn’t we think of that.” We’ve gleaned this year’s industry offerings for items of special interest to *SOF* readers. This is the first of two parts to let you know what’s new and what’s good.



ALL WEATHER PISTOL CASE

Doskocil Manufacturing Co. has introduced an all-weather line of watertight, airtight, and dust-proof Gun Guard pistol cases. Available in large and extra-large sizes in black or gray, these attractive copolymer polypropylene cases provide maximum protection from moisture and impact at an affordable price.

Reinforced ribbing, a continuous O-ring seal, a low-profile pressure release valve, a minimum three-sixteenths-inch wall thickness, attractive pricing and limited lifetime warranty make Doskocil’s All Weather cases an excellent choice for optimum protection of your favorite handgun.

For more information contact Doskocil Manufacturing, Dept. SOF, 4209 Barnett, Arlington, TX 76017; phone: 817-467-5116; fax: 817-472-9810.



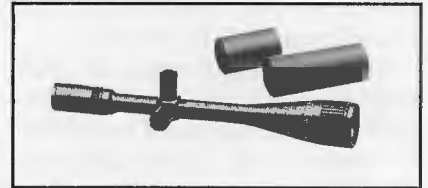
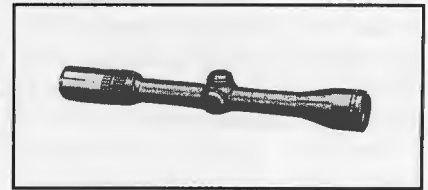
SKS SPORTER STOCK

Butler Creek has introduced a new SKS sporter stock designed to accept all SKS actions and scope mounts, ambidextrous safeties and fixed or detachable magazines.

The raised diamond-cut checkering, combined with double palm-swells and a slimmer pistol grip give the right- or left-handed shooter excellent control of these handy, economical rifles. The comb design and recoil pad provide more comfortable shooting of the SKS with iron sights or scope.

The Butler Creek sporter stock is manufactured with state-of-the-art

polymers for maximum strength and warp-free service in any weather conditions. Contact Butler Creek Corp., Dept. SOF, 290 Arden Drive, Belgrade, MT 59714; phone: 800-423-8327; fax: 406-388-7204.



ELITE RIFLE SCOPES

Bausch & Lomb has introduced a powerful 36X40 Elite Series 4000 rifle scope that combines high magnification with an adjustable objective lens to meet the exacting accuracy requirements of serious silhouette, target and varmint shooters.

The scopes feature fully multicoated optics, plus a fully effective aperture to maximize light transmission. One-eighth MOA click stops are audible, and windage and elevation are both finger-adjustable, eliminating the need for a screwdriver or coin.

This new scope will complement Bausch & Lomb’s expansion of the Elite Riflescope Series 3000, which features a 1.5-4.5X32 lower power variable, designed for close-in brush or medium-range shooting.

This scope has a high-torque, ribbed power-change ring with a raised power-lever that is easily adjusted even with gloved hands, with windage and elevation also being finger-adjustable.

For more information, contact Bausch & Lomb Sports Optics, Dept. SOF, 9200 Cody, Overland Park, KS, 66214; phone: 913-752-3400; fax: 913-752-3550.

NEW HUNTING BINOCULAR

Steiner-Germany and Pioneer Research Inc. have introduced a new 9X40 hunting binocular that enhances the eye’s ability to spot game at long distances.

The binoculars have exclusive CAT (Color Adjusted Transmission) lens coating, which provides better



low-light gathering ability for spotting game in low light, and blocks glare for better contrast in bright sunlight or hazy conditions.

The CAT coating is especially effective for observing game in the broken light of wooded areas when harsh shadows and bright sunlight hide wildlife. The 9X40s are ideal for big-game hunters, and are designed for rugged terrain but retain the slim profile, light weight and compact design that hunters prefer.

For more information write: Pioneer Research, Dept. SOF, 216 Haddon Ave., Suite 522, Westmont, NJ 08108; phone: 609-854-2424.



TRU-TRACER SHOTGUN SHELLS

You can improve your shotgun skills with these tracer shells from Nevada Cartridge Co. The innovative Tru-Tracer Shotgun Shell is the only shotshell having a lighted projectile that allows the shooter to see where their shot string actually travels.

We tested these shells against a bright afternoon sky and they do work. Tru-Tracers contain a non-phosphorous tracer that is ballistically matched to the shot so it remains near the epicenter of the shot pattern and shot string.

The Tru-Tracer produces a beam of light for 0.16 seconds and travels 60-70 yards before dimming and falling harmlessly to the ground.

With Tru-Tracers, eye/hand coordi-

nation can be developed more quickly, habitual shooting errors can be eliminated, and training time can be substantially decreased.

Tru-Tracers are available in trap loads, skeet loads and buckshot, and come packaged 10 rounds per box, five boxes per case. Trap loads are available in either light or heavy loadings containing 1 1/8 ounces of No. 7 1/2 or No. 8 shot, and 12 gauge skeet loads containing 1 ounce of No. 8 or No. 9 shot. The 12 gauge 2 3/4-inch 00 buck load contains 9 pellets with 3 3/4 drams of powder.

For more information contact: Nevada Cartridge Co., Dept. SOF, 5401 Longley Lane, Suite 44, Reno, NV 89511; phone: 702-829-7377; fax: 702-829-8030.



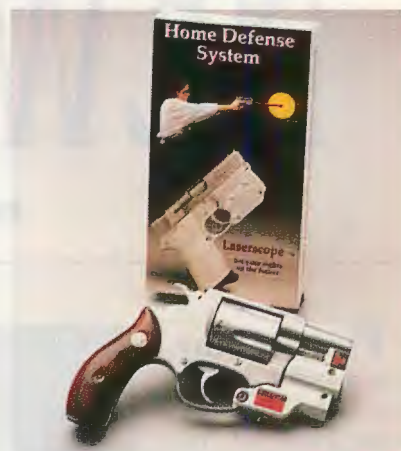
DANNER'S NEW BOOTS

There are two new boots from Danner specifically designed for rugged outdoor use. The Colorado is a hiking boot for warm weather use: It is water-resistant yet will disperse interior moisture while repelling exterior water. The boot provides ample ankle support for rugged hiking conditions.

Another new boot from Danner is the Canadian Outfitter, a 10-inch hunting and field boot designed for cold weather. This boot is insulated with a new material called Duratherm, developed by the W.L. Gore Co. This material has excellent long-term insulation characteristics because its

dead-air spaces will not compact over time.

SOF readers already know Danner makes some of the best boots in the business. For information on these new offerings, contact Danner Boot Co., P.O. Box 30148, Portland, OR 97230-0148; phone: 800-345-0430.



LADY SMITH LASER

Laser Devices introduced a below-the-barrel laser sight for the S&W Lady Smith revolver at the last SHOT Show, emphasizing that the laser is ideal for training and personal handgun defense by women.

This miniaturized target designator laser was designed for the female shooter and is perfectly streamlined to the contour of the 2-inch Lady Smith revolver.

The BA-3 laser mounts with no modifications to the revolver and its external windage and elevation adjustment make the laser beam easy to adjust to point of aim. Convenient placement of the switch makes the laser practical for left- or right-handed shooters.

For more information, contact Laser Devices, Dept. SOF, 2 Harris Court A-4, Monterey, CA 93940; phone: 408-373-0701; fax: 408-373-0903.



SNAP SLING

Slings are in this year and a lot of them are gimmicks that don't work. When GRSC sent a selection of their

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NEW CLASSICS

Text & Photos by Steven Dick

Few, if any, combat knife instructors come with the actual hands-on field experience credentials of Colonel Rex Applegate. During World War II, he served in the OSS, working with Captain William Fairbairn of British commando knife fame to design improved versions of both the Fairbairn/Sykes dagger and the "Smatchet" combat machete. Both knives were created to remedy real problems discovered in battle, but wartime priorities prevented either design from actually being produced in number. Only in the last few years has the now semi-retired Col. Applegate had the free time to arrange for the commercial manufacture of both weapons.

The first to be introduced was the Applegate/Fairbairn (A/F) Fighter, a 6-inch double-edge blade with a specially weighted non-slip handle. This knife has gone through two different custom and two commercial makers over the last few years but remains one of the best pure fighters available. The current custom version, made by Bill Harsey, is available from Wells Creek Knife and Gun Works (32956 State Hwy 38, Scottsburg, OR 97473) for around \$285. Al Mar Knives catalogs a factory-built A/F Fighter but the handle has been changed to plastic laminated wood from the original Lexan handle on prior versions.

The A/F Combat Smatchet was originally produced in a custom version by Harsey and in a limited commercial run by Buck Knives. Al Mar Knives later picked up the



Bill Harsey's custom-made Mini-Smatchet is dwarfed by the original Applegate Smatchet combat machete manufactured by Buck Knives. "Pancake"-style holster allows for maximum concealment.

design and still catalogs the blade on special order. This weapon is actually more of a short sword than a conventional fighting knife. In close combat, the blade serves equally well for thrusts, slashes and chops. When used as a machete, the Smatchet offers the additional utility of twin edges that can provide twice the working time between sharpenings. The blade can also be honed to two different edge angles so that one side serves for fine cutting and the other for rough chopping.

At the 1993 *Soldier Of Fortune* convention, Applegate introduced three more models to his growing knife line. The first two were basically scaled down 4 3/4-inch blade versions of his Applegate/Fairbairn Fighter, one conventionally ground and the other with a special three-sided grind for enhanced penetration. Though these were interesting, it was the third new model that really caught my eye — a scaled-down boot knife version of the Smatchet.



The new folding Applegate/Fairbairn Fighter alongside a Bill Harsey custom version of the popular fixed-blade design. Folding version sacrifices little but gains a lot in portability.

Most people first ask, given the fact a 4 7/8-inch long blade is not going to serve any useful purpose as a chopping tool, why scale the Smatchet down? Actually, handling the Mini-Smatchet will quickly clear this question up. The complaint most often heard about double-edge blades is that they are too narrow and steeply ground to serve any utility function. But my own evaluation quickly proved this untrue of the Mini-Smatchet. I've tried it on manila ropes, seasoned wood, cardboard and raw meat, and found the blade design works as well or better than most single-edge knives. Colonel Applegate's son even field-dressed two blacktail deer with a Mini-Smatchet prototype last hunting season.

Along with the added utility, the wide, curved edge makes the knife an awesome close combat weapon. To say the least, the blade will cut a deep, broad wound on a straight thrust and any levering of the handle would enlarge the hole tremendously. The curved edges also allow more effective slashing cuts than can commonly be expected from a double-edge boot knife.

As with the original Smatchet, one edge is marked by a hole at the base of the blade. This allows the user to either sharpen each edge at a different angle or to simply keep track of which he is using for maintenance purposes. I found the Smatchet's ATS-34 stainless steel blade no problem to resharpen on a Norton India benchstone.

The included Kydex sheath is of a high ride "pancake" style popular with handgun holster makers. I wore my borrowed knife in the small of my back off and on for several weeks and found the sheath to be comfortable and highly concealable. Kydex also offers special advantages for concealment wear in that it is both very thin and at the same time super strong.

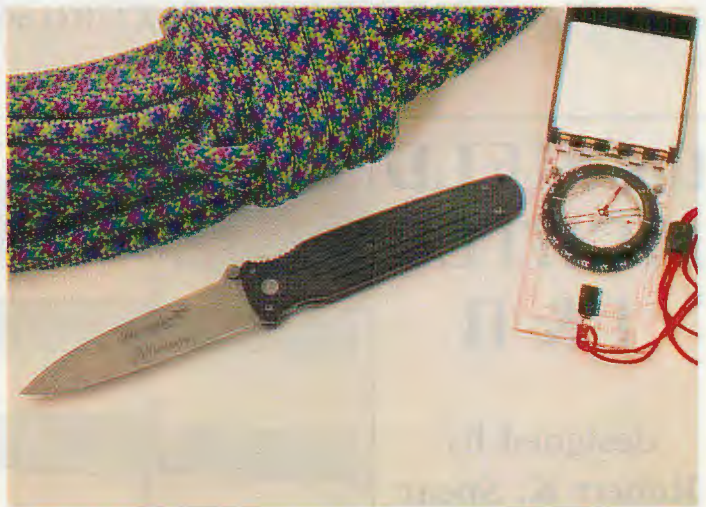
Right after I received the evaluation Mini-Smatchet from Col. Applegate, he informed me that he had an even more interesting project in the works: a folding version of the A/F Fighter. The knife is a joint design project between Harsey and auto-opening knife genius Butch Vallotton. Taking the proven handle pattern of the A/F

Fighter, they have created a folding knife with a fully sharpened 4 1/4-inch double-edge blade (Rockwell C-scale 61), a titanium handle with frame Micarta handle scales, a strong, positive liner lock, and an extremely fast one-hand opening peg, mounted at the base of the blade so as not to interfere with maximum penetration.

Folding knives normally do not have sharpened back edges because the spine is exposed when the blade is folded. On the A/F Combat Folder, the folded blade is completely enclosed in the handle. The result is a knife that is as effective as a double-edge fixed-blade boot knife but doesn't require a sheath to be carried.

Applegate intends for the custom Harsey/Vallotton knife to be a limited addition of 200 blades. He has also told me that, even at a price of \$475 each,

they have almost sold the entire first run. But don't despair, the colonel has signed an agreement with Gerber Knives to produce this folding fighter commercially. Gerber hopes to have the knife in full production by early 1995



Compact Applegate/Fairbairn folder is one of the more exciting combat knives to come along in recent years. Current custom version goes for \$475, but Gerber Knives will produce a commercial version at an affordable price in early 1995.

and at a much more affordable price.

Applegate recently celebrated his 80th birthday and is still going strong. To most of us that know him, he personifies the term "living legend." His knives have all been designed based on the realities of actual combat experience. Both the A/F Mini-Smatchet and A/F Combat Folder should make outstanding additions to this family of proven fighting knives.

Steven Dick, a frequent contributor to SOF, is a Vietnam vet and ex-member of C Company, 75th Rangers (Airborne). He recently became the editor of America's newest cutlery magazine, Tactical Knives. ✕

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I & II**

designed by
Robert K. Spear



Featured in the "**Rogue Warrior**" novel series by Rick Marcinko & John Weisman, this is the most effective fighting and field knife combination in the world. The Field Fighter is simply the nastiest, most practical blade you can hang on your web gear. This newly redesigned, hand-made version is spring steel with selectively tempered edges. It stays sharp, yet it is resilient to hard use and abuse. This may be the only big knife you'll ever need. The FF I is \$190, the FF II is \$180. Sheath & fighting manual included. Add \$6 S&H. For info contact: **UFD-SOF, P.O. Box 410, Leavenworth, KS 66048**

FULL AUTO

Continued from page 15

storage equipment, indirect fire accessories, experimental equipment and ammunition, with a superb discussion of Vickers .50 caliber and 13.2mm cartridges. The final chapter, a troubleshooter's handbook, includes all the stoppages, both "by the book" and from age and experience.

Without doubt, this is one of the finest gun books of the decade — an absolute must for Vickers collectors, machine-gun buffs and military small-arms enthusiasts. Perfect in every regard and a fitting companion piece to Goldsmith's classic tome on the Maxim machine gun, *The Devil's Paintbrush* (recently reprinted with more than 100 pages of revised and expanded text, plus more than 50 brand-new illustrations).

Autographed copies of *The Grand Old Lady of No Man's Land* are available directly from the author (Dolf L. Goldsmith, Dept. SOF, 10223 McAllister Freeway, Suite 104, San Antonio, TX 78216) for \$79.95, postpaid. ✕

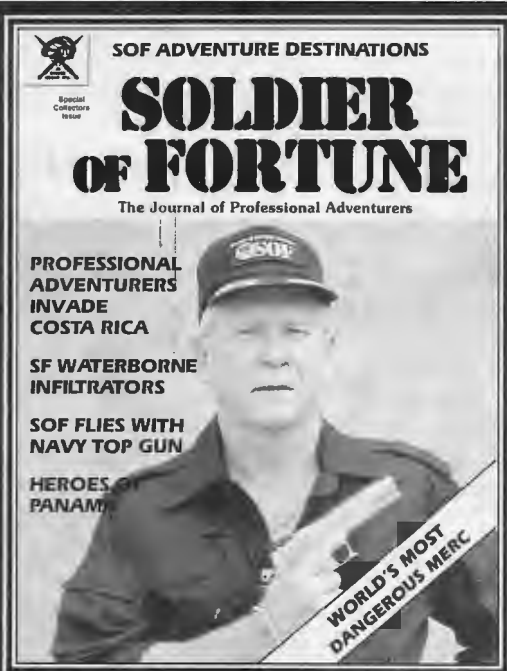
PARTING SHOT

Continued from page 82

This isn't just about Paula Jones or William Clinton or Danny Ferguson. This is also about what we stand for, as a nation. To most of the world we represent what is good and what is just. We stand for due process in the administration of the law and equal protection of all in the eyes of that law. Anything short of that demeans us all, and anyone, to include the president of the United States, who suggests that he is above the law or is immune from the process of law because of his position insults all those who placed their faith, trust and confidence in him.

No, Mr. R, it is not Mr. Davis, Mr. Cammarata, or even Paula Jones who threaten and insult you, the country, the presidency, and

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the world by this "attack" upon the president of the United States, because, in the absence of the facts, no such assault could stand or carry the day. The only person who could possibly disgrace or demean the office we all revere is the person who occupies it.

The American people put him there, the American people will maintain him there and, should the need or justification regrettably arise, the American people will decide if he should stay or leave. ✕

I WAS THERE

Continued from page 26

dense fog and zero visibility. One minute out we had a bit of good luck. We picked up "Runway 11," the roof of our 10-story BOQ, the tallest building in Newfoundland.

We made our final approach and hit the deck a little harder than usual, knocking loose remaining chunks of ice onto the runway. As we taxied back, I noticed most

pieces were at least 12 inches wide and a few inches thick. Not a bad flight, really. Our post-flight inspection revealed nothing serious, just a few baseball-sized dents in the rear vertical stabilizers.

I rotated out of VW-11 in late 1959 and the squadron went on to fly 80,000 accident-free hours before decommissioning in 1965. By that time they were flying the Greenland-Iceland-United Kingdom Gap (G-I-UK) as the barrier shifted farther east. It was a time when fears of a bomber gap had been replaced by fears of a missile gap and every man had a job to do. From Florida to Hawaii to Newfoundland, to the men of all Early Warning units whose uninterrupted vigil deterred a feared Soviet attack — well done. ✕

LEBANON

Continued from page 35

Washington, a Hezbollah squad, recently trained in the use of Sagers,

ambushed an IDF supply convoy. Ten missiles were fired from a hillside 2,000 meters away. Four impacted, killing an officer and wounding 13 men. The SA-7s, in contrast, have not yet caused any attrition among Israeli aircraft or helicopters. Their appearance, however, makes the IDF and Israeli air force more nervous than ever.

U.N.: Casualties For Peace

The international community representative in South Lebanon is the 6,500 strong United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Prevented by the Israelis from deploying to the border, UNIFIL has in recent years been able to do little to halt the conflict.

UNIFIL's HQ is in Naqoura, a coastal town deep within the security zone. The force's six infantry battalions are deployed inland of Tyre, at times overlapping with the SLA-controlled zone. Blue helmets man vehicle checkpoints and observation posts throughout their area in an attempt to control the movements of militiamen, or "armed elements" in U.N.-speak. From previous bloody

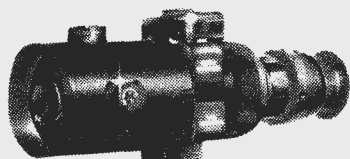
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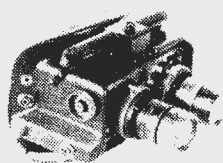
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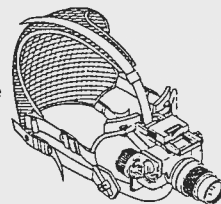
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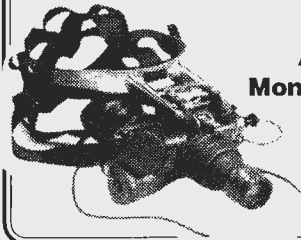
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clashes with both Amal and Hezbollah, U.N. troops have learned to take a non-confrontational approach and do no more than confiscate weapons or turn back cars carrying fighters.

In their attempts to protect the population from Israeli attacks, UNIFIL troops can do little more than place themselves between Israeli guns and their targets in the hope that the U.N. flag will be deterrent enough. This approach has been successful in reducing violence in the area but both Hezbollah and the Israelis suspect the international soldiers of favoring the other and UNIFIL frequently loses men in clashes with both sides.

The Missing Player

The Lebanese army is the other missing player in South Lebanon. Until 1990 the army was as fragmented as Lebanon as a whole but, since the 1990 Lebanese peace accords, it has been reinvigorated. The army has moved into areas which for years were out of bounds to it, such as the southern suburbs of Beirut and the Sheikh Abdullah barracks in Baalbek. The population of the South, however wait in vain. The army has tightened its

grip over the Tyre pocket but inland the army has made little attempt to take over UNIFIL's responsibilities.

In the aftermath of Israel's July 1993 bombardment of the South, 300 soldiers were deployed into the UNIFIL area as a token show of force. The troops however constitute only a temporary presence and have not taken over any U.N. positions. Their checkpoints have not apprehended any militiamen in the last few months. It is probable that Hezbollah has an agreement with the Syrian-controlled Lebanese government not to provoke clashes and simply orders its fighters to bypass these particular roadblocks.

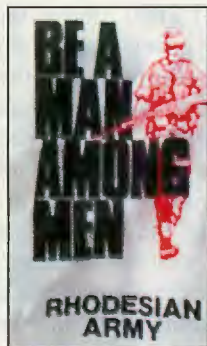
Israel and its neighbors are talking peace but each time progress is made at the negotiating table more people die in South Lebanon. The impoverished population merely want to tend their orange groves in peace — they have no time for the fanatics of Hezbollah or the IDF's military juggernaut. It is these people who bear the brunt of the fighting since Islamic guerrillas use locals as a shield from behind which to attack the Israelis.

If Syria and Israel make peace, it is likely that the Lebanese army will

be able to move into the South and, with help from Syrian intelligence, root out the fundamentalists. At the same time, though, all Middle Eastern governments are nervous at the growth of fundamentalist Islam. Hezbollah's effective paramilitary operations have boosted the reputation of fundamentalist movements among many Arabs who oppose peace talks. The war in South Lebanon may therefore be setting the stage for a wider conflict between fundamentalists who seek the destruction of Israel and the overthrow of all existing Arab governments as well as their allies in the West.

This small and vicious war in a forgotten part of the Middle East may well be a forerunner of a broader conflict between Islamic extremists and the West. We should all watch and learn.

Jim Marks resigned his commission in the British Territorial Army in 1992 to write a doctorate on Middle Eastern terrorism. His research has taken him to Lebanon and Syria, as well as most other countries in the region. He is now based in London, writing and consulting on Middle Eastern security issues. ✕

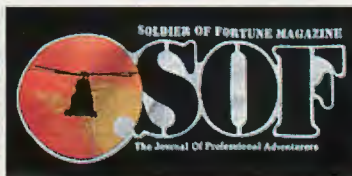


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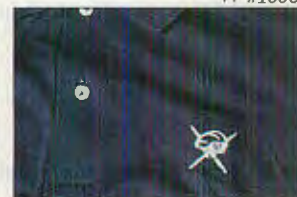
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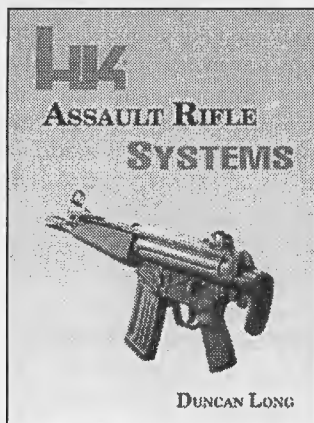
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Continued from page 31

assortment of borrowed and donated parachutes, all of which had been inspected and repacked by the competent RTMC riggers back in Thailand, but there weren't enough helmets to go around. We selected a drop zone, a large dry rice field next to the village of Kambol, then inspected the aircraft, a Soviet-made Mi-17 helicopter — a less than ideal jump aircraft — and made do. Captain Dwight Davies, the jumpmaster, and a couple of USMC Recon sergeants put on a refresher jump school for the Cambodian jumpers.

Jump day fell on 6 June, the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

We were still faced with language and logistical problems. As there were only four helmets, one of which remained with the jumpmaster, each lift consisted of three jumpers, with the helmets being switched to the next lift on the ground. By the time they got around to me, there were five jumpers left, three helmets and a Cambodian pilot making it crystal clear that after this lift he was going home. So Phoeng and I stepped out the door bare-headed. After I had come that far, walked around with a rig on that long and put up with the heat and humidity, I had no intention of missing the jump. The general had been waiting 20 years.

Of course it was an unsafe act, and a damn-fool thing to do, but we got down all right. I'm hopeful this jump represented the rebirth of military parachuting in Cambodia, but they have a long way to go.

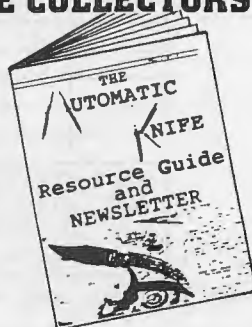
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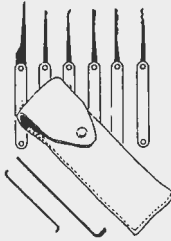
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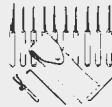
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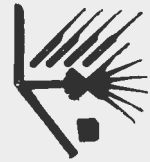
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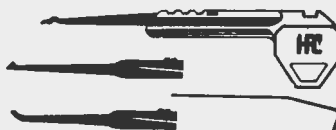


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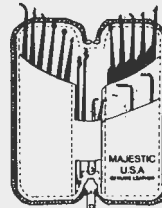
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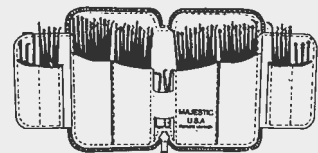
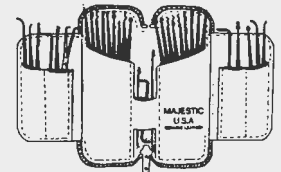
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GEER ON GEAR

Continued from page 55

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For more information contact, GRSC, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1246, Yucaipa, CA 92399.

Galen Geer is SOF's Contributing Editor for outdoor affairs. ✉

THE MAN WHO HELD THE SECRETS

Continued from page 51

for them when Johnson and two men in civilian clothes arrived. Johnson demanded to know the whereabouts of Throckmorton, still believing that he was shackled up somewhere. Monaghan informed him that Throckmorton was missing on a combat action. Johnson turned completely white.

The CIC agents refused to believe it and insisted on searching the camp. While they were engaged in this, Monaghan asked Johnson what was going on. Johnson told him about Throckmorton's special job, and, as Monaghan said later, "I probably

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turned a little white, too.”

It was time to press the panic button. While Johnson and the CIC argued about whose job it was to notify MACV, a helicopter came in from Bu Dop. On it was Throckmorton, having decided to come back to Mike Force headquarters and see if he could get permission to go back out.

He was quickly whisked away, not under arrest but very nearly so. Back at his own brigade headquarters, he was to tell the story again and again. Realizing just how close to disaster they had come, the brigade commander finally replied, “I don’t know whether to put you in for a medal, or court-martial your young ass.”

In the end they did neither, merely restricting him to a very circumscribed existence while his MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) was changed. His last contact with Special Forces was to testify at a board of inquiry ascertaining the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of Stewart and Hallberg — to this day listed as MIA. Consumed by survivor’s guilt, and convinced he had done the wrong thing in leaving Stewart and not dying with him,

Throckmorton died a little at a time.

Later events were to show that the operation had been compromised from the beginning. The bartender at the Mike Force club was an active VC agent, as were several other Mike Force members. Privy to the operations plans, it was an easy matter for the 9th VC Division to set up the ambush.

But the compromise went even deeper. Investigation showed that the body recovery mission was a ruse. The only bodies in the area were those of a local Ruff Puff (Regional Force/Popular Force) platoon ambushed by the VC. The Special Forces officer who had requested the mission was later relieved of his duties when evidence showed that he was entirely too close with a double-agent district chief.

Throckmorton and others like him were targets of hostile intelligence services from the moment they began nuclear weapons training. Most attempts to turn them were through classic recruitment methods: money, blackmail and ideological conversion. It must have seemed a gift from heaven when Throckmorton was as-

signed to Vietnam. KGB and GRU *rezidents*, working with the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong, especially sought any information on U.S. officers in sensitive positions. Should one be captured, they would have been allowed to share in the intelligence bonanza.

The military was not particularly careful to hide Throckmorton from enemy intelligence agencies. He was assigned to Vietnam under his nuclear weapons officer MOS with no attempt to classify his records, or give him a “cover” specialty. We now know that enemy agents had access to the personnel system at MACV and had only to look at the rosters to locate him.

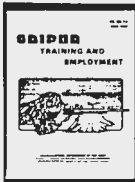
What would have happened if Throckmorton had been captured? There is no doubt he would have resisted to the best of his ability. There is also no doubt he would have been broken. Everyone breaks, sooner or later. The results could have run from the merely disastrous to the horrific. Showcasing a captured nuclear weapons officer and revealing the possible presence of such weapons and contingency plans to use them in Vietnam would have shocked our allies

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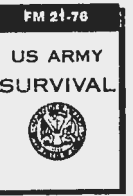
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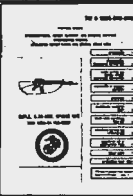
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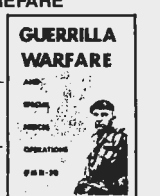
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and given a propaganda victory to the communists that they would have exploited to the limit.

Atomic Nightmare

But it could have been much worse than that. The VC had already shown their ability to penetrate Long Binh. In November 1966, a sapper attack reached the ammunition depot, blowing up thousands of tons of ammunition. Remarkably, security was not improved after this event, U.S. forces believing that their campaign of attrition was the best way of keeping the NVA/VC from mounting such attacks.

A nightmare scenario can easily be built involving another penetration of Long Binh with the intention of securing the SADM. The mere possession of such a device would have provided potent blackmail material. Fifty thousand soldiers, the population of Long Binh, as well as all military and civilian occupants of the fallout zone, could have been held hostage. Even better would have been to detonate it in place. Such an event would have radically altered the course of the war. America could have been forced to withdraw, admitting

defeat, or we could have denied that the weapon was ours. Inasmuch as the only place the enemy could get such a weapon would have been the Soviet Union or China, such a course could have precipitated World War III.

When asked specifically about whether or not he, given his training, could have bypassed the safeguards and exploded the device, Throckmorton reluctantly admits that he could. Even today Jack Throckmorton is hesitant to cast blame for the near-disaster on anyone but himself.

But let us leave aside the wisdom of a policy that resulted in his presence in Vietnam, and the obvious failures of counterintelligence that exposed him. Why would such an awesome responsibility be put on the shoulders of a lieutenant in the first place? His desire to get into the thick of things was understandable; after all, he was a product of the "bear any burden, fight any foe" generation.

"Don't know," he says. "Maybe they figured a young lieutenant would be the only one stupid enough to set it off, if it came to that."

He is probably more right than he knows.

SF veteran John Mullins is a freelance writer residing in Oklahoma. This is his first contribution to SOF. ✕

WALKING TALL

Continued from page 47

the DA's office, largely in concert with Paul Davis. Ross' family is active in the "democratic" electoral process: His wife sits on the county elections board, and his brother is in charge of setting up voting machines.

Ross' name is linked to the still-mysterious resignation of Sheriff Black's predecessor, Kenny Taylor, inexplicably forced out of office after serving only two years, and granted immunity from prosecution for any alleged crimes. Ross was the sole principal in negotiating that resignation. According to state audits of the sheriff's department drug funds for the fiscal years 1988 and 1989, thousands of dollars of questionable disbursements were made under Taylor. Those two audits were "watered

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down," according to one state CPA who worked on them and asked not to be named. Pressed for more details, the auditor said he would release additional specifics only under court order or a subpoena. "I have to live in Tennessee," he said, flashing a nervous smile.

Ross subsequently provided what state auditors suspected were "dummy" receipts. That investigation indicated that Ross had approved payment to Taylor of "several thousand dollars in cash from the drug fund, evidently for salary fees or as a confidential informant himself," one investigative document revealed.

"On one occasion, a \$5,000 cash disbursement was issued by Larry Ross to [former] Sheriff Taylor ... Larry Ross, in a suspicious and strange manner, came up with a receipt from the drug fund." Ross also "got his hands on" about \$9,000 from the drug fund during the tenure of Sheriff Billy Delaney, Taylor's predecessor, the source said. That money was not accounted for either.

Ross has kept in his office large quantities of narcotics seized in various arrests, several law enforcement sources told *SOF*, ostensibly for use as evidence in prosecutions. But when jail inmates were used to clean up after the district attorney's office moved from the courthouse to a building across the street, the inmates reportedly found — and ingested — a large quantity of prescription painkillers. "When they got back to the jail," recalled one eyewitness, "they were bouncing off the walls. We had a big mess. We confiscated what was left and they said they'd found them in a bag in the back of one of Mr. Ross' desk drawers."

Grand Juries & Grand Juries

What, if anything, comes out of the two federal investigations may not be known for a long time. In a letter hand-delivered to FBI Director Louis J. Freeh, lawyer Charles Russell Twist, a former Department of Justice attorney retained by Downie and Black, said, "The sheriff's office has developed probable cause to believe that there is official corruption in the court system in McMinnville. This includes the prosecutor's office. There is probable cause to believe that a judicial officer has accepted bribes."

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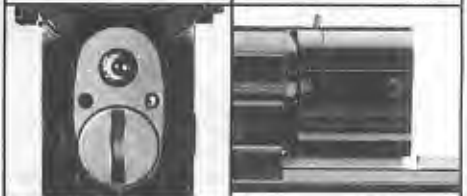
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The letter also recounted drug sales by Billy Wannyn, son-in-law of Tennessee state Sen. Cooper, and dope deals by the son of a high-ranking McMinnville police officer. Wannyn has since been indicted. The other man has not.

As this issue went to press, a state grand jury convened at the behest of Judge Charles D. Haston is set to hear evidence about alleged corruption, for the indefinite future. An obvious possibility, and the subject of speculation, is that the grand jury will be used to subpoena and gag anyone with knowledge of interest to the press. The grand jury room is swept for electronic surveillance devices before each sitting. Haston, a high-school classmate of Mason Black and a board member at CB&T, wrote Black a personal letter in late August, thanking Black "for running a first-class jail ... I've known many sheriffs over the past 20 years and ... none has done it better ... I'm very sorry we weren't able to work together more closely. I think you and I both regret that ... Sincerely, Chuck."

On 2 September, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation agent Danny Wix was in Ohio, trying to locate Downie. One of Downie's old business partners, a retired CIA employee, was contacted the same day by federal agents seeking Downie. Wix showed up a couple days later in Pennsylvania, looking for Linda Owens, the widow of one of Downie's former undercover partners. When Owens died last year, his dying request to Downie was that Downie assume Owens' name as an undercover alias, Downie said. "He wanted 'Jim Owens' to keep chasing bad guys." It was an alias Downie used in Tennessee.

Meanwhile, Mason Black has retired to his secluded home outside McMinnville. The last time *SOF* talked to him, he was working on a new fly-fishing rod and making plans for a long-delayed vacation. He said he is forbidden by grand jury instructions from commenting.

Jeff Fults has gone back to the family sawmill and logging business, although he promises to return to law enforcement in some capacity. He is certain that Downie was on the right track. He believes the investigation may spawn trouble.

"The violence is coming, as cer-



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tain as night follows day," he said. "We've already experienced some of it, but I think this hullabaloo will bring more. And it's a shame, because this is such a beautiful place to live. It's just that a group of people who are now in power have turned it into this nightmare ... And one thing they are desperate to do is discredit Mickey Downie. They were as afraid of Mickey Downie as you or I would be of a grizzly bear. Because he was not somebody they could deal with easily. It's black and white with Mickey. There ain't no middle ground."

Downie had earlier worked undercover for the FBI in a sting that led to the arrest and conviction of two dozen corrupt Cleveland police officers, but when his real identity was leaked to the press in Ohio, he had to sell his house and go into hiding. Now as the Baskerville hounds of Tennessee trail him again, although in constant contact with *SOF*, Mickey Downie's exact whereabouts remain unknown.

A former staffer, James L. Pate is a frequent contributor to SOF, often on topics of official misconduct. ✕

LAWMASTER SAGA

Continued from page 53

ATF had to defend its obviously unreliable snitch. And it went to great lengths — all the way to the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver, Colorado, where the case was argued 1 March 1993, the morning after the disastrous Waco raid — to conceal the woman's identity, and thus hide the investigative sloppiness of its own agent. In a victory for lying snitches and a defeat for defenders of truth, the appeals court ruled that the feds were not obligated to reveal the identity of the person whose malice brought down on Lawmaster the wrath of the Gun Gestapo.

Fortunately, what goes around comes around. In an unrelated court matter, the U.S. Attorney's office in Tulsa inadvertently attached to court papers being publicly filed a redacted version of the affidavit used by Ward to obtain his search warrant for Lawmaster's home. *SOF* viewed a copy with Lawmaster and, based on

the information and specific references, he said he is certain his ex-wife was Ward's informant.

But Lawmaster is not the type to dwell on his misfortune and abuse at the hands of "public servants" whose salaries his tax dollars help pay. He quietly continues the slow process of pursuing civil relief from the ATF's abusive raid and remains busy moving his business, the Gun & Ammo Jail, to its new 1110 S. Lewis St. location in Tulsa. He spends his spare time fishing, square dancing and shooting at a local gun club. And people hardly ever mention the ATF raid anymore.

"Right after the article in *SOF* appeared, there were about 40 calls on my answering machine," he said. "That machine just went nuts. People were calling me, asking to do radio talk shows. I did two just in Texas. And I think I got a letter from almost every state in the union."

He heard from many other law-abiding gun owners who'd been victimized by the ATF: "I got a call from a guy up north who owned a wrecker

Continued on page 81

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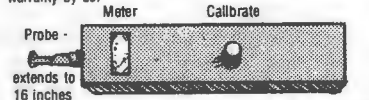
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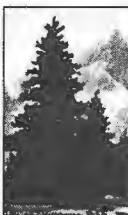
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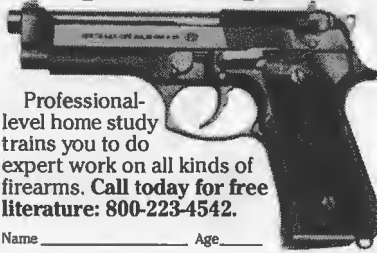
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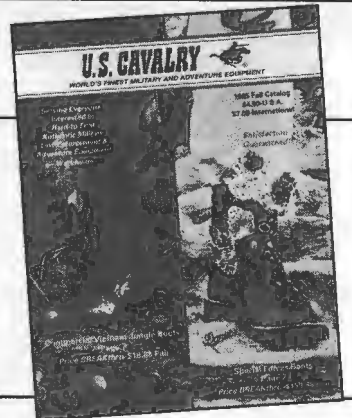
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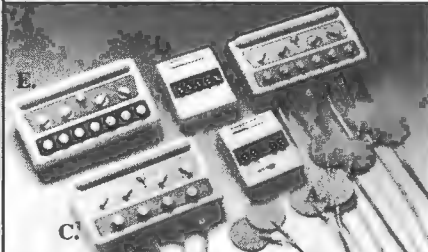


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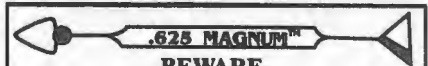
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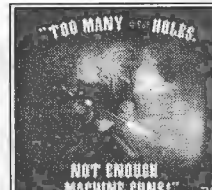
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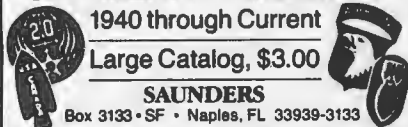
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Continued from page 70

service and collected guns. He had his guns locked in a big safe that was bolted to the concrete floor in his garage. They came after him on some trumped-up charge. It was like me. He hadn't really done anything, and like me, they waited until he wasn't home. Well, they couldn't get the safe open, much less get it out of his garage. So they decided to call a wrecker service to pull it out of the floor. Guess whose wrecker service they called?

"This guy told me one of his drivers was en route to [the towing service owner's] house," Lawmaster said, laughing. "He said he heard his own address come up in the radio dispatch, so he got right over there. He helped them open the safe. They confiscated his guns, but never charged him with a crime. He said he didn't sue them because he didn't have the money. I ain't got the money

either. But you have to do what you have to do."

Lawmaster paused here to thank the many individuals, and especially the National Rifle Association, whose financial contributions have enabled him to continue his legal battle against Ward and the ATF. And, he mentioned, if the public has forgotten who John Lawmaster is, the ATF have not.

"I was down at the SHOT Show in Dallas, and they had an ATF booth, so I stopped and asked them some questions about how the Brady Bill worked," Lawmaster said. "I was talking to this one agent from Washington, D.C. ... I was asking questions and the guy in charge looked at me and looked at my badge and read my name. I saw this, so I introduced myself. He said, 'We all know who you are, Mr. Lawmaster.' So he introduced himself, and he introduced me to all four agents in the booth. They were real pleasant ..."

A former SOF staffer, James L. Pate is a frequent contributor on issues of governmental abuse and constitutional violations. ✕

COMMAND GUIDANCE

Continued from page 3

a helluva lot of battles facing us in the future. Why don't you drop the NRA's Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre a letter asking him what he plans to do about this concept and if nothing, why not. You can write him at: NRA HQ, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030.

If the NRA doesn't pursue the coalition concept, I'm afraid the only thing they will be fighting for five years from now is our right to keep and bear "sticks and stones." ✕

PARTING SHOT

The People Will Decide

by Phillip J. Edwards

Phillip J. Edwards is Operations Manager for Gilbert K. Davis and Associates, attorneys for Mrs. Paula Corbin Jones.

Almost every day for the past three months, I have answered scores of phone calls from people around the country voicing their opinions of the people and allegations involved in the sexual harassment suit by Paula Corbin Jones against William Clinton and Danny Ferguson.

Many are supportive of the stand she has taken to clear her name of the allegations against her. Others are outraged by a perceived attack upon the office of the presidency. One recent caller, a Mr. R, was particularly incensed by what he perceived to be an attack and insult by our office and Mrs. Jones against him personally, the presidency, the entire nation and the world. He wrote letters and made repeated phone calls to our office, expressing his opposition to the position taken against Mr. Clinton. It was after a lengthy, and unfruitful, conversation with Mr. R that I sat down and took an earnest look at the implications of this suit and what it really means.

I am not a lawyer. I am not a trier of facts. I am an American who served his country proudly and

swore "to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and to bear true faith and allegiance to the same." While no longer in the armed forces, I still hold that oath dear and will continue to remain faithful to it.

Much (perhaps too much) has been said about the various motivations and personalities involved in this suit. It is the

The American people, the final arbiters, will, in the end, hold him and him alone, responsible for any insult and degradation brought upon the office of the presidency.

position of Mrs. Jones' attorneys that the media is not the proper forum for a trial on the merits of this case. I find that a refreshing position. Perhaps some have noticed the conspicuous absence of Paula and her attorneys in the media since the day the suit was filed in Arkansas. This office is bombarded daily by requests for interviews and offers for appearances; however, without fail, the answer is always the same: Mrs. Jones is not seeking publicity or money and the proper forum for clearing her name will be the courtroom, not the media. I, too, believe that. However, I feel the implications of

this suit embrace at least two other forums that either already have, or yet must still have their say in the final result.

The first proper forum for a just conclusion of this matter was in the heart of the man himself — William Jefferson Clinton — the man who, (allegedly) through the power of his position and by improper exercise of the authority reposed in him by the people who

embarrassment of the state troopers' untrue allegation, he might have preserved the dignity of the office he now holds. He was never asked to admit any wrongdoing of his own; he was only asked to deny that Paula Jones had done anything wrong. Her effort in this action was not to bring any discredit upon the man, but to clear her own good name. Because he has now rejected his moral

responsibility, it is left to Mrs. Jones' attorneys to prove her innocence by proving his guilt. Having placed himself in that position, Mr. Clinton alone bears the responsibility for any degradation and defamation of the position to which he

was elected.

The American people, the final arbiters, will, in the end, hold him and him alone, responsible for any insult and degradation brought upon the office of the presidency. For good or ill, it is for the people to decide. While it may be possible to fool them individually, the American people as a whole have always demonstrated their ability to make right choices for righteous reasons. I believe in them and trust in their ability to decide this matter and am confident that justice, in the end, in all three forums, will be served.

Continued on page 58

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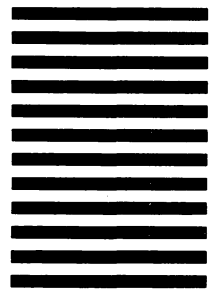
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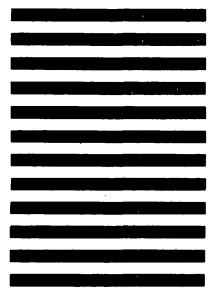
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